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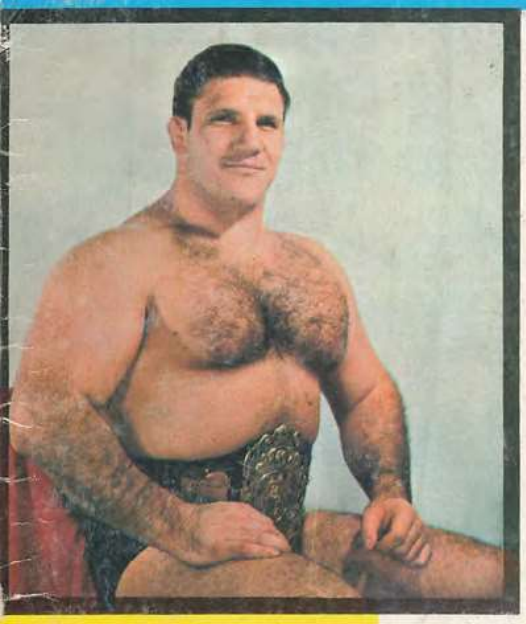

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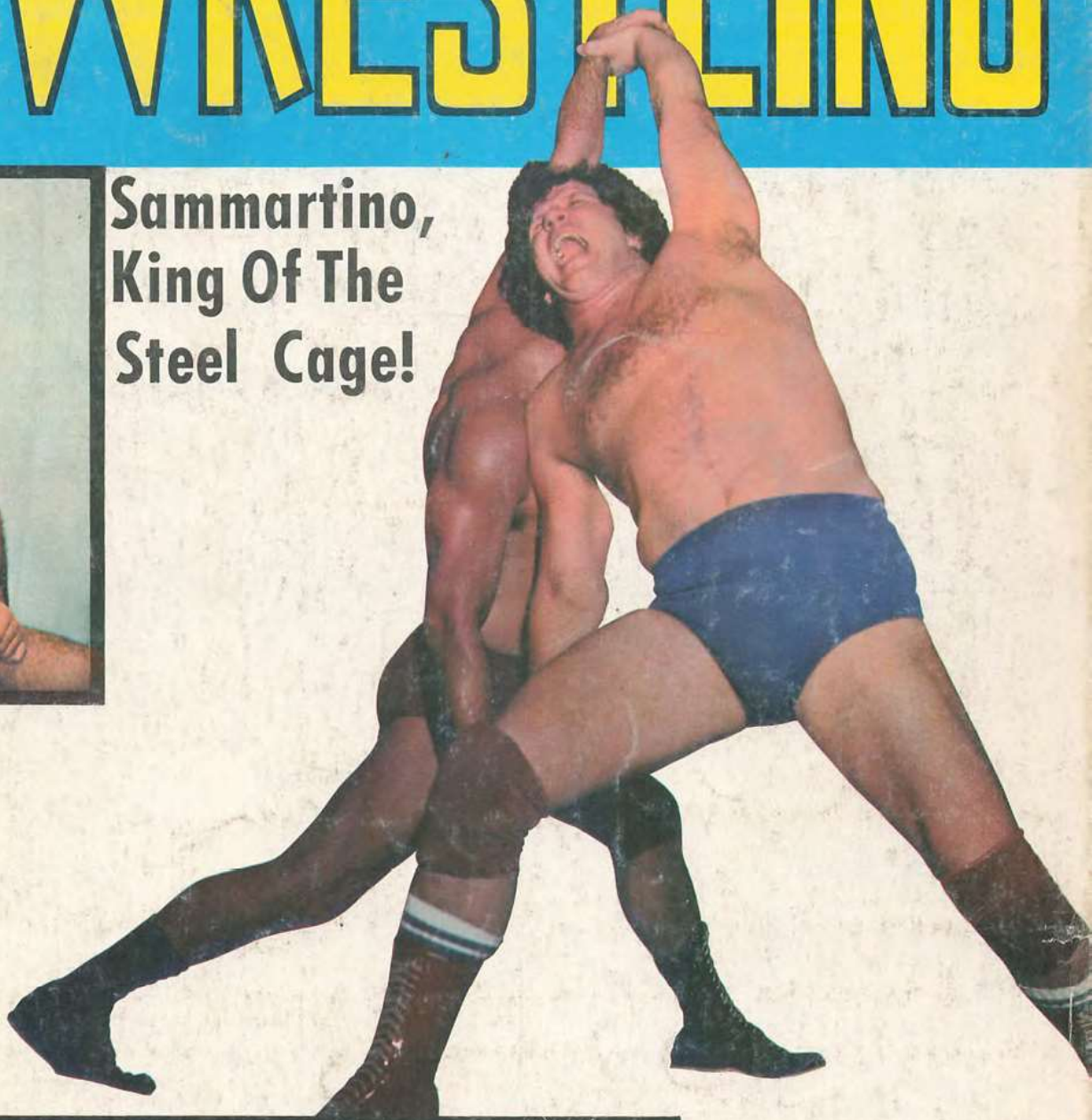

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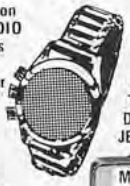

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The RING WRESTLING

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AS NAT LOUBET SEES IT

WRESTLING 1976—a year of promise for a sport which has been growing by leaps and bounds over the past few years. The circulation of this publication has increased continually and so has the mail from RW readers. There is a tremendous divergence between the various interests, likes and dislikes among our readers.

One large segment of our readership wants only scientific wrestling. Out with the gimicks and showmanship, out with cane wielding managers, out with the masks and mud, the chains and straps.

In addressing myself to this particular facet of the mat game I can't help but remember those days when Joseph James Stecher, the man with a million dollar pair of legs, would hold an opponent in a leg scissors for half an hour at a time, or when Ed Strangler Lewis would hold an opponent on the canvas for what seemed hours while he applied his famous neck choke. So much for the truly scientific matches. They breathed boredom, and except for a few died in the wool fans, the arenas' numbers diminished as attractions and wrestling was on the way out as a big time sport.

Then came the era of change with Jim Londos and his airplane spin, Gus Sonnenberg, the Dartmouth football player, with his flying tackle, and others who breathed life back into the old girl and the sport began once again to look up.

Would a purely scientific approach to wrestling pay off at the gate? The answer is NO! But is there some middle ground between demeaning the sport to a carnival show and still retaining wrestling as a sport? The writer believes that there is a middle ground for almost everything in life.

Purely scientific matches of the type put on in the "old days" would jam the exits leading out of the arenas. Only the hot dog venders would benefit.

But, the shows put on under the guise of wrestling where men or women wrestle on a mat of mud, or tied to each other with straps, or in chains, or inside a cage would seem to be the other extreme, and we just wonder if the promoters putting on such garbage aren't a little short sighted. They are supplying entertainment, but not wrestling. Over the years this approach will end up as vaudeville and not wrestling, and wrestling will be a circus not a sport.

We are approaching this at a fast clip, and I wonder if we shouldn't remember that wrestling can be a good show without forgetting entirely that the show part of wrestling is but a part.

The showmanship of men like Gorgeous George and the various attires of wrestlers that give the game color and glamour are fine, and even when the bell rings the new type of wrestling which spells "action" rather than boredom as in the early days is "right on." But, do we have to add to jumping from the top rope a strap, a cage, or the intelligence insulting nonsense of a wrestler hiding a pair of brass knuckles in his tights without the referee getting even a glimmer of his having same?

Come off it! Isn't all this kind of showmanship a bit much? Perhaps I am wrong and perhaps what the fans want is not just the color and ballyhoo, the various personalities and fun that can go along with a sport. Perhaps the fans want the chains and other bull.

For example, take boxing and the color and excitement that Muhammad Ali has brought to the game. Something like Gorgeous George. But he still doesn't climb into the ring with chains.

As a matter of fact Ali is scheduled to meet a 400 pound wrestler in Japan for some four million bucks in a six round bout to decide if he can beat a top notch wrestler. Each will do his thing, Ali boxing, and his opponent wrestling. The idea is not new since it has been done repeatedly in the past. The results have been fairly even with the boxers gaining a slight edge in the outcome.

There will be great interest in an Ali match with an outstanding wrestler and this is of interest, but let's not make wrestling a constant vaudeville show. After all it is wrestling.

Regardless of who may win, Ali or the wrestler, it is an interesting oddity, but should not become an everyday part of the sport of wrestling any more than the many other odd ball wrestling gimicks.

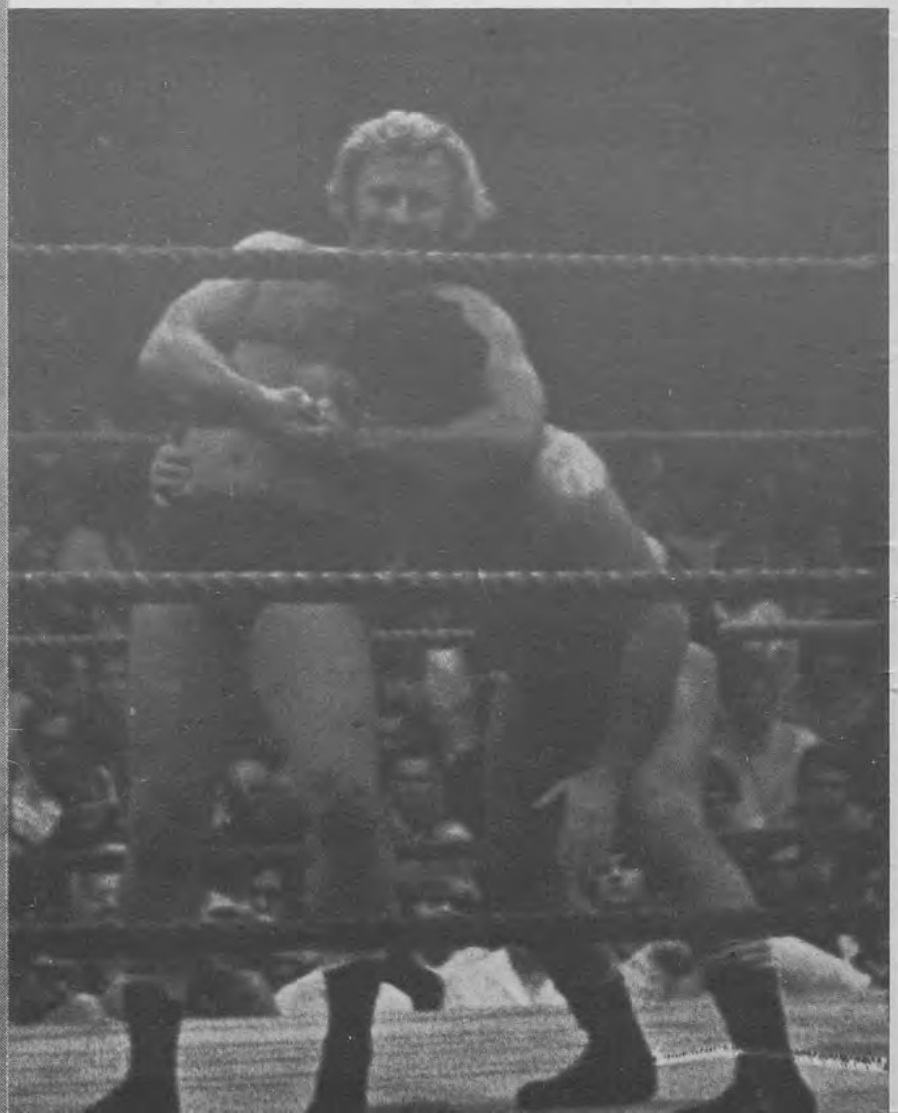
How do you readers feel about all of this? Get busy and let me know.

(Left) In a happy mood, Nick Bockwinkel signs autographs for his fans.

(Right) Bockwinkel and tag team partner Ray Stevens captured the AWA title, one of the many Bockwinkel has held. Among those who have fallen to Bockwinkel is Billy Robinson, seen in a headlock (Below right).

"LEAN, MEAN MACHINE," BOCKWINKEL, IS AWA CHAMPION!

By MICK KARCH



WHEN Nick Bockwinkel had his hand raised in victory over Verne Gagne, signifying the fact that he had won the American Wrestling Association World Heavyweight title, the 7,000 fans at the auditorium in St. Paul, Minnesota, couldn't believe their eyes.

Indeed, in the upset of the decade, the incredible Verne Gagne had lost his championship to the strapping, 245-pounder from Beverly Hills, California. The bout's stormy finish had the thousands of onlookers in an uproar. Gagne had been clobbered from behind by Bockwinkel's second, Bobby Duncum, who was there in the absence of Nick's manager, Bobby Heenan. The referee hadn't seen Duncum's assault on Gagne, and counted the pin. Later in the week, the association upheld the referee's decision, and proclaimed Bockwinkel the new kingpin.

What about this man who now rules over the AWA? Fans from coast to coast know the Bockwinkel name now, as they did many years ago when Nick's father, Warren, was a recognized champion in his own right. Nick was literally "trained from the cradle," in the words of Minneapolis wrestling promoter Wally Karbo. His success as a pro grappler has been consistent, and lengthy. His victory over Gagne, while quite likely his greatest feat, is only one of a collection of titles that Bockwinkel has won.

Nick Bockwinkel takes time out from training to have a word with his manager, Bobby Heenan, who has teamed with Bockwinkel on occasion.

The blond brawler, who is nicknamed the "lean, mean, machine," has been a co-holder of the world tag team title, various versions, on more than one occasion, his greatest success over the past three years was in a combo with Ray Stevens. The two not only captured the AWA version of the title, which is the most respected in all wrestling, but they also ventured to NWA territories such as Florida and Texas to win championships there. Even on a tour of Japan, Bockwinkel and Stevens wiped up all opposition to solidify their claim as the world's supreme tag team combination. Their reign was halted by the wild Crusher-Bruiser tandem in Chicago.

In addition to the afore-mentioned titles, Bockwinkel has held various state titles as a solo performer. He has also copped the United States title in his illustrious career. His greatest achievements have been since 1971, however, when he first began to click in AWA land.

Wicked Nick is not the most humble man in the wrestling profession. He is good, and he knows it. What irritates him more than anything are the critics of his profession. Bockwinkel feels that wrestling is a scapegoat of sorts for people with innumerable hang-ups of their own.

"It is a time-known axiom," he begins, "That anyone who is avant-garde, a leader or pace-setter, will come under attack. Those of us who are out in front will be called phonies, our integrity will be questioned, and so on. The doubting Thomases come from all walks of life—law, medicine, politics, manufacturing, ditch-digging. There are many answers I give to many questions, but nothing makes my temperature boil quicker than for someone to question my integrity!"

Bockwinkel, tired of the verbal abuse and attacks by the press on his sport, is vehement in his defense of his livelihood. "When presidents of the United States are in jail for fraud and bribery, when officials of the New York Stock Exchange are in jail for swindling, when cops are on the take, and I could go on and on, who is justified to question. . .in other words, 'Let he without sin cast the first stone.' I'll listen to those who haven't broken any laws, per se."

Bockwinkel is proud of the fact that professional wrestling is one sport where fans get their money's worth of exciting action. "I can stand up and say that anytime any fan puts out his three to six dollars to watch wrestling, he has gotten 100% value for money paid," Nick maintains. "Let any contractor, store owner, doctor, lawyer or Indian chief who feels he can honestly say the same, speak up! Yet it is these people of questionable integrity who point at my profession with criticism.

In spite of his animosity towards the cynics, Bockwinkel feels that he recognizes their motives in attacking wrestling, though he certainly is irked by their insinuations. "For people to accept me for what I am," Nick muses, "The lean, mean, machine, the man's man, etc., they must also accept what they are. Not lean and mean, not a man's man, and so forth. I find that most people who are quick to knock yours truly are merely trying to elevate themselves by putting me down. But we've all heard of the flea climbing the leg of an elephant, planning on rape, and yelling about it. The elephant casually leaned up against a tree, the flea between the tree and the elephant!"

While he is one of the staunchest defenders of wrestling, it goes without saying that Bockwinkel is a tremendous wrestler in his own right. He is a master of scientific wrestling, an exponent of hundreds of holds and counters. Over the past few years, he has become a rough-and-tumble grappler as well, preferring to bend the rules, rather than follow them. Couple his mauling tactics with his mastery of the basics and you have an unstoppable force—something that Bockwinkel has proven himself to be.

The ruggedly handsome world champion is a tremendous physical specimen, and has one of the finest builds in wrestling. He was a fine athlete in college, both in wrestling and football at the University of Oklahoma and the University of California at Los Angeles. Though he has had his fair share of injuries during his long span in various athletics, the only noticeable traces of injury that are obvious are his scarred knees—the result of operations in consequence of hurts sustained in his head-to-head encounters.

A list of the men that have fallen to defeat at Nick's hands over the years would read like wrestling's honor roll. Just in the past few years these stars have been pinned by Bockwinkel at one time or another: Big Bill Miller, Larry Hennig, Bill Robinson, Verne and Greg Gagne, Billy Red Cloud, Ivan Kalmikoff, Edouard Carpentier, Wilbur Snyder, The Crusher, The Bruiser, Reggie

(Continued on page 53)

TERRY FUNK: NEW NWA CHAMP

By TOM BURKE

IN Miami, Florida, on December 10, 1975, Dory Funk, Jr., was scheduled to meet Jack Brisco in a championship match for the world title to be recognized by the National Wrestling Alliance. Dory, Jr., had made a great error: he had booked himself to take part in an international tournament in Japan. This had been arranged prior to his getting the match with Brisco, and although Dory had planned to bet back for the Miami match, air flight connections made it impossible, and a last minute search for a subsitute was initiated.

Miami promoter Chris Dundee was called in and took part in the negotiations with Dory, Jr., the NWA Champion, Jack Brisco, and the championship committee of the NWA. A substitute had to be made, and approval was given by all parties to allow Terry Funk to replace his brother in the main event to be held in Miami, Florida, on December 10.

On night of the championship match the audience consisted of a mixed crowd; however, there was clearly more support for Brisco than Funk. As soon as the bell rang, the Miami fans saw twenty eight minutes of furious wrestling action by both matmen. Holds and counterholds were used with great ability. Many veteran Miami wrestling fans stated that they had never seen a comparable match to that between Brisco and Funk were putting on.

Things were even all through the match. When one would seem to have an edge over the other, the underdog would counter and have the advantage. The match went on and on like that, when suddenly Terry Funk caught Jack Brisco in a cradle, and the reign of the popular wrestler from Oklahoma was over.

Terry Funk's hand was raised in victory, and another Funk now held the NWA championship title. Brother Dory had held the title from 1969 to 1973.

Some may be surprised that Terry Funk is the new NWA champion; however, the close observers of the sport foresaw the victory for Terry. While Dory Funk, Jr., was the world champion, brother Terry seemed to be sitting in the back seat. After all, he could never get a title shot at the championship as long as his older brother held the crown. When Dory lost his title to Harley Race quite a few people started to look at Terry Funk in a different light.

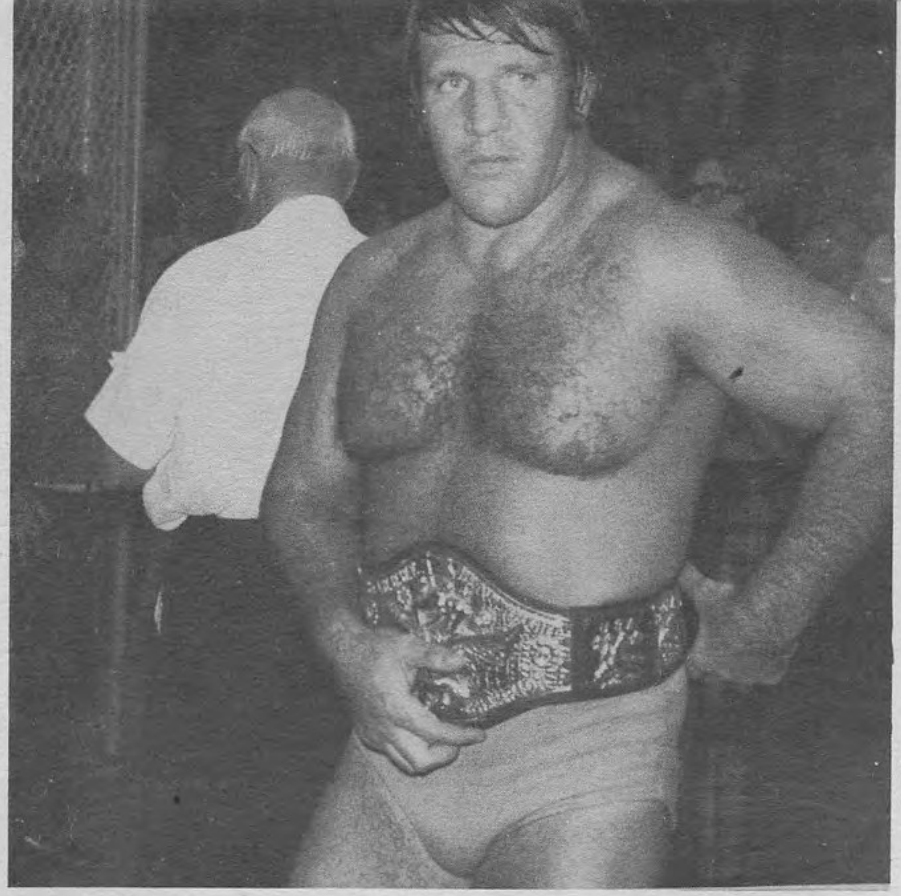
Terry had been busy while his brother was champion and had won some important titles himself. Terry held the Western States Title, Brass Knucks of the Western States; he took the Americas Championship from Victor Rivera in Los Angeles; in Missouri he won the state title when he pinned Johnny Valentine. These, along with other championships, all piled up to the culminating evening in Miami in December of last year.

Terry is 29 years old and stands 6 feet and 1 inch tall, and hits the scales at 245 pounds. Like his brother, he makes his home at Amarillo, Texas, at the famous Funk ranch. Trained and groomed to be a champion by his late father, Dory, Sr., Terry has done a fine job. Ever since he made his debut into the professional ranks in 1966 he has had the drive that makes men champions.

Terry had an outstanding amateur wrestling career, as well as a great football career. He was a three-year football letterman at West Texas University. In his senior year he was the offense captain. Two of his teamate;s to turn pro were Duane Thomas and Mercury Morris. Terry could have turned to pro ball after college but he wanted to get in the family profession—wrestling.

What is in store for the new champion? With the National Wrestling Alliance always growing and adding more promotional offices to their body the areas that the NWA champion will have to

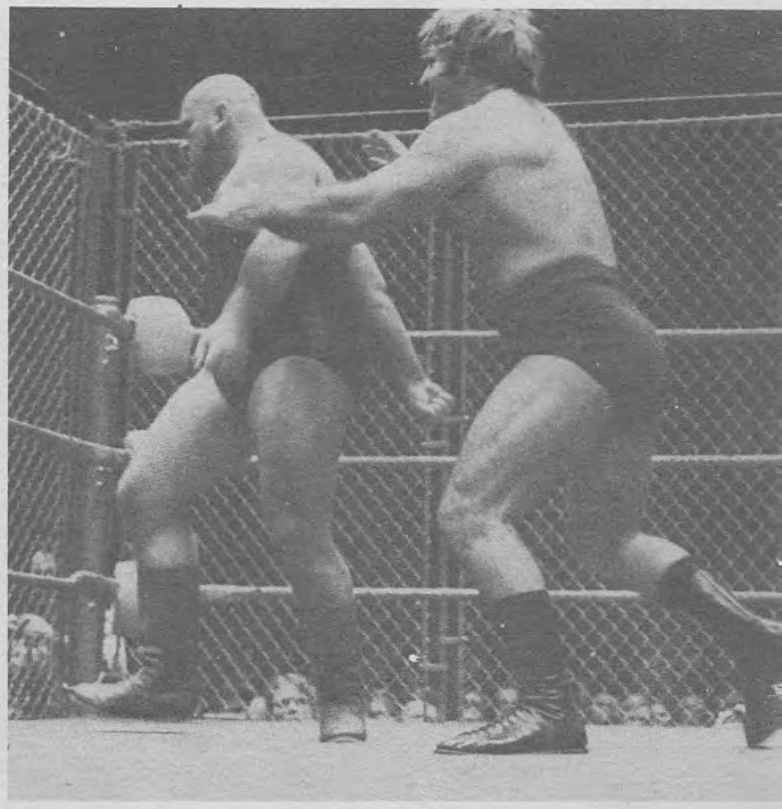
(Continued on page 53)

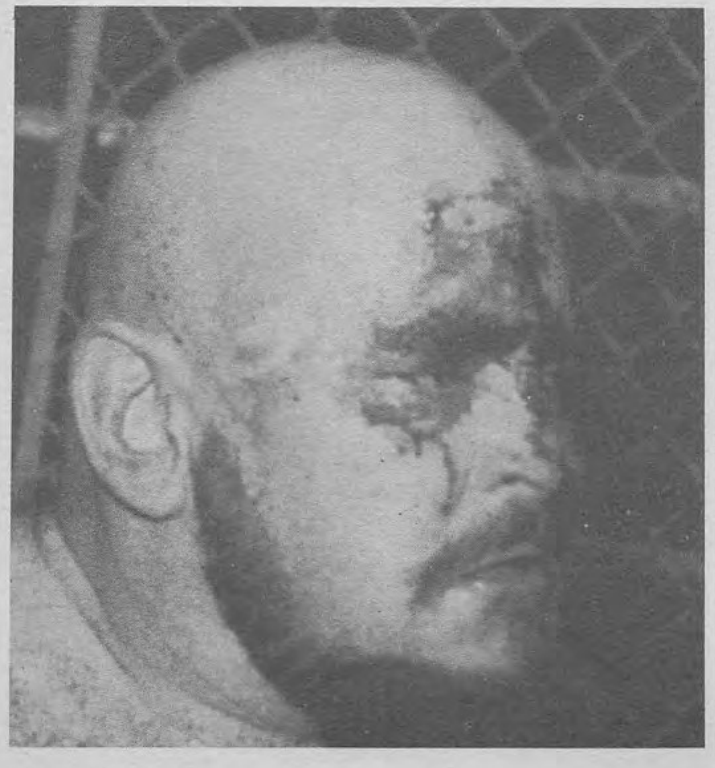


Bruno Sammartino: King Of "The Steel Cage Match"

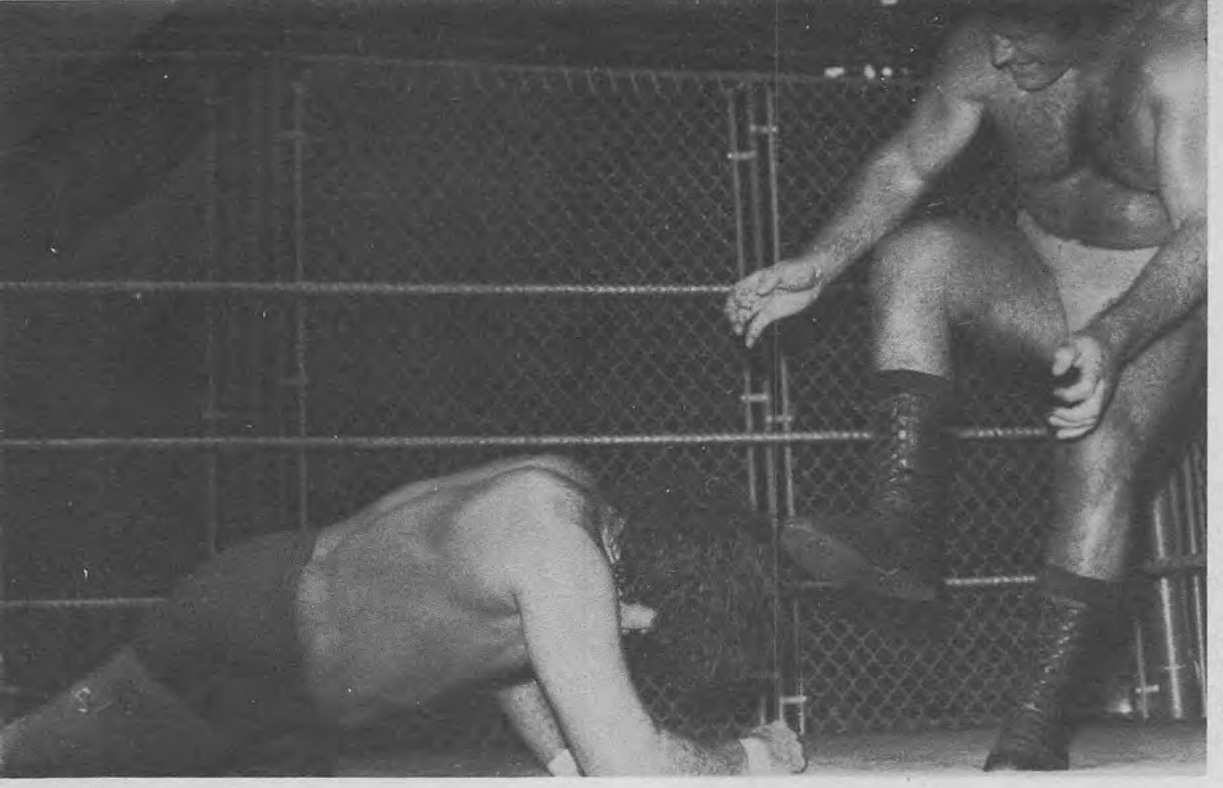
Prior to entering the ten foot steel cage to do battle with the Russian Bear, Ivan Koloff, Bruno Sammartino takes off his championship belt.

By GEORGE NAPOLITANO





(Above) Bruno goes into action the second he enters the cage by tossing Koloff into the side of the cage. After several of these tosses, Ivan (left) had a face covered with gore and quickly weakened to give Bruno the win.



Spiros Arion, the hero turned villian, tried his hand at a cage match with Sammartino, only to find himself on the losing side. (Left) Bruno stomps on Spiros' head during their battle, and (below) the Greek is helpless with pain at the end of the match.

CHAIN matches, strap matches, Texas death matches, brass knuckles matches are all wild, exciting battles in which a definite winner always emerges. However, of all the types of encounters the most exciting, controversial and action packed has to be the "Steel Cage Match." In this type of match a 10 foot high steel cage is erected around the ring to prevent the participants from trying to escape from the other's grasp. The rules of the match are simple! Anything goes, with the winner being the first wrestler who can leave the ring under his own power.

There are quite a few wrestlers in the sport who claim to be the "Steel Cage Match" champions, but in actuality THE wrestler who can legitimately make this claim is the W.W.W.F. champion, Bruno Sammartino. The Italian Strongman has defended his title numerous times in cage matches throughout the years, and he has yet to lose a decision in one of these matches.

One of Sammartino's early cage match victories came over the loquacious Lou Albano. Albano claimed to have invented the steel cage match, but the talkative manager came out a poor second in his attempts to defeat Sammartino in the cage.

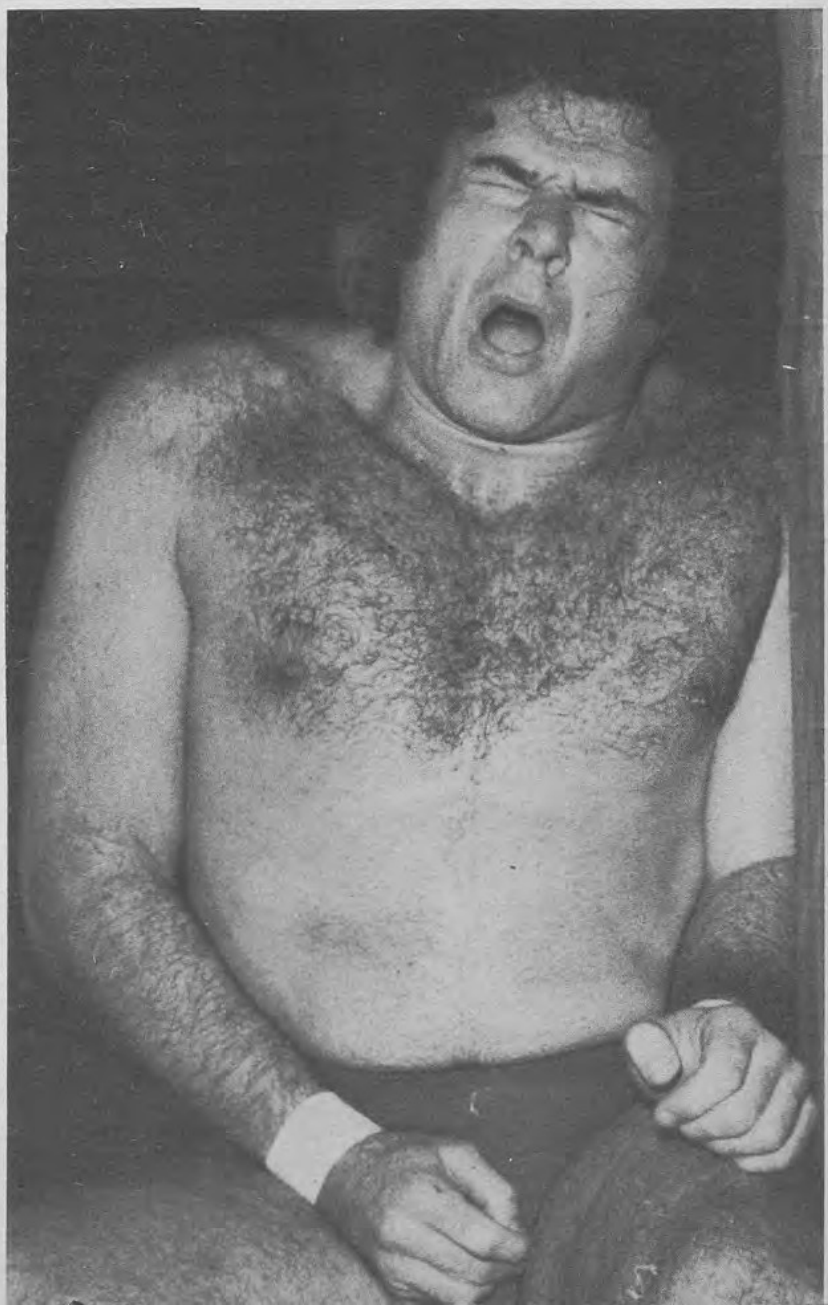
George "The Animal" Steel also has tried his luck against Bruno in the cage, but "The Animal," like Albano, wound up the loser in his battles with the champion inside the wire mesh ring.

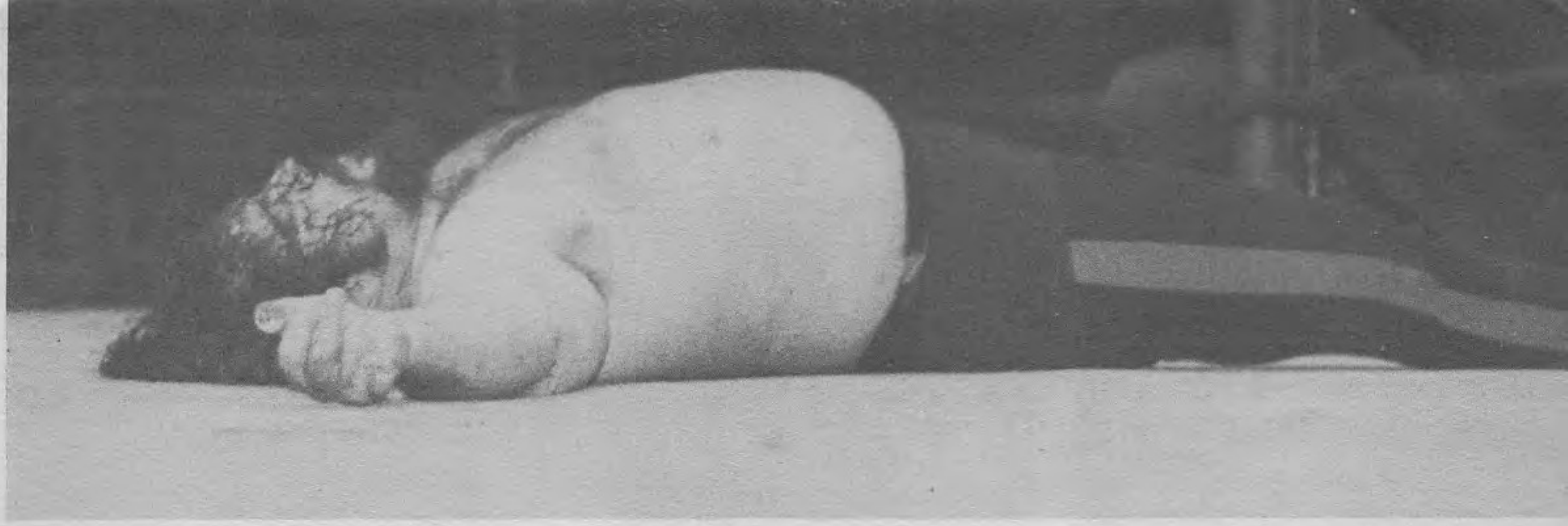
Another man who thought he could defeat Bruno in a cage match was the former hero turned villian, Spiros Arion. Arion and Bruno wrestled in five cage matches up and down the east coast, but in each one the Greek wound up on the losing side.

Recently the Russian Bear, Ivan Koloff, decided to try his luck against Sammartino in the first steel cage match ever held in New York. Prior to the battle, Lou Albano, speaking on behalf of his protege, promised a sure victory for the Russian.

"This will be like taking candy from a baby," Albano stated. "My Koloff will humiliate that Sammartino so badly that after the match he's gonna hide under the ring never to be seen again. Don't forget that I invented this type of match and I have taught my champion all the tricks of this type of encounter. I know that Koloff will emerge triumphant just like I have in over a thousand of these things."

Prior to the Madison Square Garden match Bruno Sammartino spoke to the hoardes of reporters about his upcoming battle. "I really don't like this kind of match," the champ began by saying. "To me this is not wrestling. It's just like putting two animals in a cage and making them fight it out until one destroys the other.





(Above) Lou Albano, flat on his back at the close of a "steel cage match" with Bruno, claims that he is the originator of this kind of match. (Right) Bruno is jubilant as he leaves the ring after another victory inside the cage. Sammartino doesn't approve of the tactics he must use inside the steel cage, but as he says, "It's literally a street fight, and I plan on walking out of the cage the same way I walked in; in one piece."

There are no rules involved. There's no referee to follow the flow of action. It's as if we were in the jungle where the survival of the fittest is the only rule. But if that's the way I've got to beat this man, that's what I'm gonna do.

"I've learned through experience that you have to go into the cage and begin right away. You can't waste a second, because if you do you will defeat yourself. You have to kick, punch, stomp, right from the beginning, because this is what your opponent is gonna do to you. Don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating this kind of thing in a wrestling match, but this isn't your ordinary wrestling match. It's literally a street fight, and I plan on walking out of the cage the same way I walked in; in one piece."

Once the ten foot high cage was assembled around the ring in New York's Madison Square Garden, Ivan Koloff made his appearance. Entering the cage, the Russian Bear quickly pranced around the ring awaiting the arrival of his adversary, Bruno Sammartino. Within seconds the champ came running down the runway and into the cage. Even before the door was closed, the action had begun. Koloff took the initiative by kicking the champ in the stomach. Koloff continued his attack as Bruno absorbed quite a bit of punishment. The champ, however, managed to knock Koloff off his feet, and once having the Russian on his back, Sammartino went to work. Very few holds were in evidence as Bruno retaliated on Koloff in the same way he had been treated. The Russian was weakening fast. Bruno picked up Koloff and began to toss him repeatedly head first into the metal cage. Within seconds a hugh gash was opened on Koloff's skull.

With his own blood dripping into his eyes, Koloff went wild! The Russian mustered up his last bit of strength in an effort to overtake Sammartino, but the champ outsmarted him and side stepped a shoulder block. With this Koloff went flying head first into the cage once again.

Bruno quickly went back to work on a weakened Koloff. Bruno delivered several round houses, and before he knew it Koloff found himself stuck between the side of the ring and the cage flat on his back. The champ then calmly walked to the door and straight out of the cage, once again the victor, in New York's first "Steel Cage Match."

There will probably be quite a few more challenges for Bruno in a steel cage match, but before anyone hastily challenges the champ they should take into consideration that Bruno Sammartino is probably the all time "King" of the steel cage match.

(Right) The "King," Bruno Sammartino

At home in his lovely Bronx, New York, home, Manny Soto shares a bit of his private life. (Left) Manny trains even on the rare evenings when he's not on the road. (Center) He exhibits a trophy he won while on tour in Japan, and (right) Manny relaxes with his favorite magazine.

AT HOME WITH MANNY SOTO

RINGTHEBELL77 on Archive.org

By GEORGE NAPOLITANO

HE is a professional wrestler by trade, who by night battles such roughnecks as Spiros Arion, superstar Billy Graham, Ivon Koloff, Ernie Ladd all up and down the east coast, but by day the popular Manny Soto is a devoted family man living with his wife and four children in a lovely residential section of the Bronx, N.Y.

Although his nights are frequently spent on the road, Manny Soto manages to spend as much time as possible with his wonderful family. "This is what I live for," Soto stated while relaxing in his home.

"It may be long, hard and tiresome at night when I travel for many hours from city to city, but when I come home and see the kids and know that they have a good life for themselves, it makes me very happy."

Soto's immediate family consists of his wife, Anna, his two sons, Carlos and Manuel and his two daughters Maria and Nancy. The Sotos are a very closely knit family, and each member follows his father's career very closely.

"Carlos and Manuel say they want to be wrestlers too! Wherever I come home they want to wrestle with me and try to put holds on me while we watch T.V. But," Soto stated with a chuckle, "I think they're gonna be dirty wrestlers!" He continued, "If that's what they want, fine, but I don't really want to encourage it. Wrestling is a very hard life, and it takes up a lot of your time. It's true that the main eventers get compensated very well, but not everyone can be a main event attraction. You have to work very hard to get ahead. I'm happy that I've been a success here in the east, but I still would like to win a major title like my good friend Pedro Morales. If I faithfully stick with it, though, I know that my time will come too."

"Really, the only bad thing about my career is the constant traveling. Some people may like traveling from one city to another night after night, but once you have a family it is hard to be on the road constantly, only to make it home a few times a week. But I guess if I had to do it over I would still enter the same profession because wrestling has been good to me."

As Soto talked, his good friend and tag team partner Pete Sanchez came over to visit and together the two wrestling stars talked about their profession. "Tomorrow we have to drive up to New England to wrestle for the week. First we have a card in Bangor, then Portland, Maine. From there we're booked in a small town in Massachusetts. Then we travel to New Haven. Friday it's back to Massachusetts to wrestle in North Attleboro and Saturday it's Boston."

Soto shuttered as Sanchez rattled off the week's bookings. "See what I mean," Soto stated. "This coming week I'll be lucky if I make it home for a few hours after the card in New Haven on Thursday before we have to go back to North Attleboro for the Fri-

The family is the center and stabilizing force of Manny's hectic life. From left to right are Maria, his wife, Anna, Manny holding Nancy, Carlos, and Manuel.

day night show there. But not all weeks are like this. Sometimes we do manage to get home a few times if we're wrestling in the New York-New Jersey-Philadelphia vicinity.

"As I said, though, I really can't complain, because this has been a good life for me. My children all have what they need and we get along very well as a family.

"I try to help them with their school work whenver I can and the boys and girls are really making out well in school. Nancy, my youngest daughter, loves school and she always brings home a very good report. Carlos and Manuel also have done very well with their work. My daughter Maria is a very big help to my wife around the house and she works hard around here keeping the place in order.

"Actually, I couldn't have hoped for a better family life. Without them I don't know if I would have been able to keep up with such a grueling SCHEDULE."

The exploits of professional wrestlers inside the arena have been written about and retold countless numbers of times, and it is hoped that this inside look into the private life of one of the most popular wrestlers in the east has helped to shed some light into what Manny Soto does in his very rare time away from the bright lights of the wrestling ring.

Manny chats with his good friend and tag team partner, Pete Sanchez, right.

THE DAY MOOLAH LOST THE WORLD TITLE TO CHIYO OBATA

By KOICHI YOSHIZAWA

THE U.S. has the Fabulous Moolah and we here in Japan have Chiyo Obata. Obata has been the top women's wrestling star throughout the Orient for close to 18 years, and in this time Obata has captured every women's wrestling title everywhere she's appeared.

At the present time Chiyo holds the Japanese Women's heavyweight title, and no one has yet come close to defeating Obata for this title.

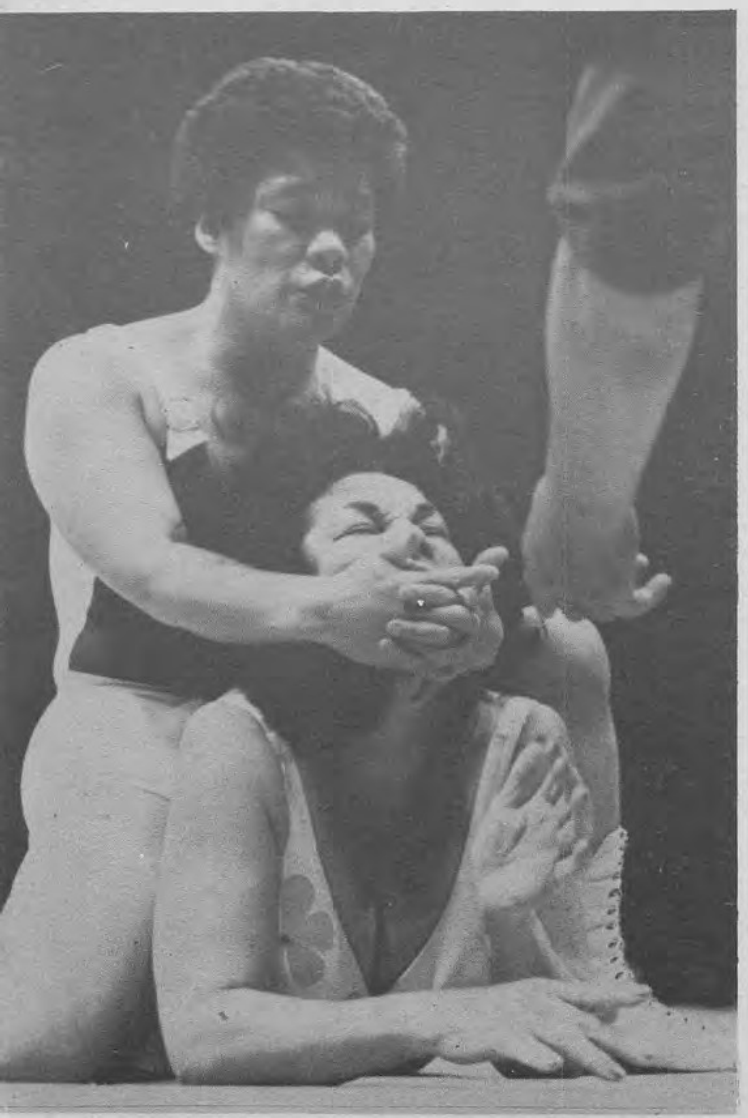
Obata captured the I.W.W.A. title in 1969 by defeating the Fabulous Moolah in the finals of a tournament to determine a new title holder, and ever since that happy day Obata had been trying desperately for the chance to wrestle the Fabulous Moolah for the world title. However, due to Moolah's many commitments throughout the world, the champion was not able to return to our shores to put her title on the line for five years.

Finally late last year, after quite a long absence, Moolah announced that she would be returning to our country within a matter of months. When Obata heard this news, she began her preparations for the championship match. For several weeks prior to Moolah's arrival, Obata trained every day for three hours practicing holds and building up her endurance for the grueling match which was to come. Obata wanted to make sure that she was in the best condition of her life, and she was!

On the day of the match, Obata stated to reporters, "I feel that today will be a very big day for women's wrestling in Japan. I know Moolah is tough, but I defeated her before for the I.W.W.A. title, and I feel that I can beat her tonight. Even if I don't defeat her, I want to put up a good showing and make her realize that the Japanese wrestlers are just as tough as the American women."

After the opening instructions, the match started with Obata rushing from her corner at a surprised Moolah. For the first five minutes Obata completely controlled the match with the use of her arm locks, leg locks and her powerful scissors hold.

Moolah was in pain, but the champ managed to break free by making her way to the ropes. After breaking free, Moolah punched



Two masters square off to vie for the women's world heavyweight title. (Above) The Fabulous Moolah headlocks Chiyo Obata, of Japan, and (left) Chiyo headlocks Moolah. Obata took the first and a third falls to win the title from Moolah. The American re-won it two weeks later.

Obata, but our heroine retaliated, punching, kicking and karate chopping Moolah. Obata wouldn't let up for a second, and quickly the Japanese champion applied her feared airplane spin. Around and around Moolah spun and after 8 turns Obata flung Moolah to the mat and immediately applied the Boston Crab. Moolah tried desperately to escape, but the more she tried the more pressure Obata applied. Finally, after close to 30 seconds of punishment, Moolah submitted in the center of the ring.

When the bell rang to start the second fall, Moolah was still out. Moolah's seconds, Paula Kaye and Sandy Parker tried to revive the champ, but Moolah was really in a bad way. Obata tried desperately to get at Moolah, but Kaye and Parker prevented the Japanese star from getting at the world champ. Finally Moolah started to revive and the champ cried out to the referee, "Time out, time out."

Obata, however, wasn't out to be tricked by Moolah and she immediately went at the champion. But Moolah quickly ran from the ring to talk over strategy with her seconds. When Obata moved too close to the ropes Moolah pulled Obata's leg, tripping her to the mat.

Moolah then quickly returned to the ring, and as Kaye continued to hold her leg, the champ began to stomp on Obata unmercifully. Moolah punched, kicked and choked Obata in the corner as Parker and Kaye lent their support. Finally after dishing out more punishment Moolah pinned Obata to capture the second fall.

The third fall began with an angry Obata rushing from her corner to get at the champ. Obata whipped Moolah into the ropes and then she delivered a devastating body slam. Once Moolah got back on her feet Obata knocked her back to the mat with a powerful drop kick. Obata then applied her giant swing sending Moolah spinning all around the ring. Obata definitely had the advantage as Moolah was out. Moolah tried to rise to her feet, but Obata sent her flying from the ring and then both women began to slug it out.

Sandy Parker and Paula Kaye tried to interfere on Moolah's behalf, but Obata sent them both flying with a powerful right. With Moolah sprawled out on the floor, Obata returned to the ring and began to parade around waving happily to her many admirers.

The referee counted, and at the count of twenty Chiyo Obata was declared the winner and new women's world champion. With this announcement the huge crowd went wild with excitement. The championship belt was then carried into the ring and Obata's close

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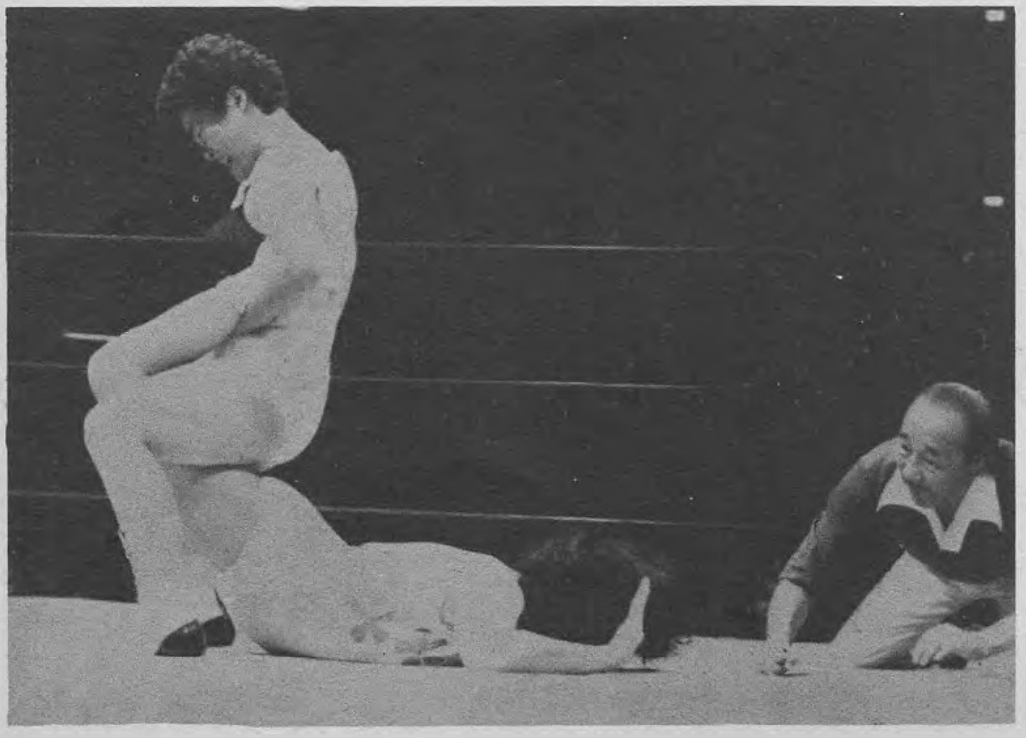
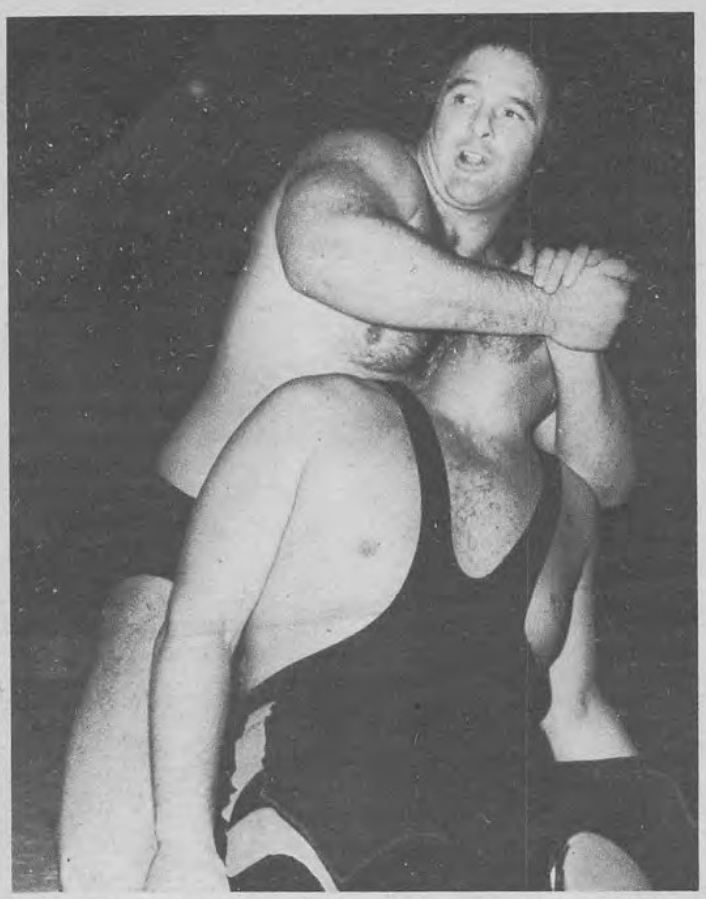


(Left) With this Boston Crab being applied to Moolah by Chiyo, Moolah gave up the first fall to the Japanese. The crab was preceded by punches, kicks, karate chops, and an airplane spin. (Above) Chiyo Obata struts around the ring with the world heavyweight championship belt she won from Moolah.



A snoozing Otto Von Heller is awakened rather abruptly by Mark Lewin.

May not look like much, but since its perfection no wrestler has escaped from Lewin's Sleeper, as Von Heller is finding out.

By JACQUELINE NAPOLITANO

"I DON'T want to sound like I'm bragging, but honestly, I feel that my sleeper hold is the most effective hold in the wrestling world today," a confident Mark Lewin stated while relaxing in the dressing room of the Atlanta Colliseum after putting the lights out on the tough German Otto Von Heller.

"It took me years to perfect this hold to its present state, and right now there isn't a wrestler in the sport who would be able to escape my grasp once I apply this hold. Before it was taking me just a few second too long to finally get the proper grip, and in these few seconds some of the more seasoned veterans were managing to escape, but now this doesn't happen. I have so perfected this hold that I am offering to any wrestler double or nothing to prove that once I have any man in that ring there would be no escape from it."

Mark Lewin certainly has some top credentials to back up his claim, for he has put to sleep almost every top wrestler in the sport with his favorite hold. Try asking the Sheik, King Curtis, Harley Race, Roger Kirby, Bob Roop about Lewin's sleeper and listen to the response which you get, if you get one at all! Everyone has grown to fear this maneuver and understandably so.

The origin of Lewis's pet hold traces back to his early partnership with Don Curtis. During the sixties, Mark Lewin and Don Curtis formed the number one tag team in the sport. With their strikingly handsome features and sensational ring style they quickly emerged as the most popular and talented duo of that era. In their clashes with Dr. Jerry and Eddie Graham, Buddy Rogers and handsome Johnny Barend or the Fabulous Kangaroos, the team of Lewin and Curtis frequently emerged triumphant, and in many instances one or both of their opponents were found fast asleep on the canvas at the match's conclusion.

IS LEWIN'S SLEEPER THE MOST EFFECTIVE HOLD IN WRESTLING?

(Above) Another grappler succumbs to Lewin's Sleeper. This poor victim is Chris Markoff. (Below) Over the bulge which is a heavily sleeping Von Heller, Mark Lewin is proclaimed the winner.

It was this early partnership which helped pave the way for Mark Lewin's continued success. "I have to give a great deal of thanks and credit to Don Curtis for taking me under his wing and helping me become the wrestler I am today," Lewin stated while reminiscing about the good old days. "Don really helped me and showed me the way to succeed. No amount of verbal thanks can truly convey the way I feel towards him for what he has done for me.

"It was Don who first taught me the Sleeper, and from this early training with the hold I later went on to perfect it. After wrestling all over the states for several years I wanted to expand my repetoire and knowledge of the sport, so I decided to go overseas to try my luck there. I traveled to Australia, New Zealand, all over Europe, Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan picking up very valuable information along the way.

"It was while wrestling in the Far East that I began to work with several Oriental Masters, and it was there that I finally perfected my Sleeper hold. This hold originated among these people, and I was quite fortunate to find myself a teacher who was extremely adept at this maneuver. He taught me several forms of the hold, as well as teaching me quite a few different aspects of

(Continued on page 66)

Diamond In The Rough Called Lil

Darling Dagmar teamed up with Cora Combs against Diamond Lil and Anne Casey in a free-for-all that showed just how dynamic a fighter Lil really is.

(Above) Diamond Lil, a grappler who enters the ring ready to do anything to beat her opponents. (Below) A disheveled Diamond Lil tries to break Darling Dagmar's arm, and will probably chew on those fingers if she catches the ref looking the other way.

By GARY BALLARD

HOW are cliches born? What causes people to end up saying things like "the bigger they are, the harder they fall?" Obviously the fellow who said that never tried to knock O. J. Simpson off his feet. And the guy who first uttered, "A job well done never needs doing again," has never mowed a yard in my neighborhood, I can tell you that!

Trite, cutesy phrases are easy to come up with when attempting to describe something you feel in your muscles, your bones, your very guts. The fact that these identical phrases have been heard a thousand times about a thousand similar incidents, objects or people can't help but hurt the message you want to communicate. But how else can you express through mere words the importance you've experienced internally?

Whenever I watch that madcap mistress of the mat called Diamond Lil in action, I want to go beyond cliches. I don't want to call her the mighty mite, although she is a mite of a gal who's mighty powerful. I don't want to label her the tiny tot terrorist who tames tough tigresses, although for such a wee lass she appears terrifying to many of her larger battle-ax peers. I certainly don't want to use the old dynamite-comes-in-small-packages routine, even though it's hard to conceive of a person much smaller or much more explosive than Diamond Lil.

She deserves better than sly sayings and fancy phraseology. She enters a ring prepared to fight or bite, scratch or stomp, kick or claw, slap or strangle, pull hair straight away or jerk it into stringy knots by degrees, but most of all she's ready to wrestle. She approaches each of these acts with enough energy, enthusiasm and gusto to give the most demanding of fans their money's worth of excitement. As far as the wrestling portion of her repertoire of strategems is concerned, Lil moves from hold to hold with a

consummate ease born of countless hours on the mat during her ten years in the profession.

In fact she's well-nigh unbeatable in the ring with her combination of science and brutality. The only thing that keeps her from capturing and holding the female version of the world title for midgets is her own highly combustible disposition, for she takes verbal and physical flak from no one without slinging it back in spades, diamonds, hearts and clubs—especially clubs when it's a physical encounter!

Of course as a villainess she attracts from the fans reams of invective, which, when she tries to retaliate with her singular brand of unladylike billingsgate, focuses too much of her attention away from her wrestling maneuvers and brings about defeat.

In spite of this rather disconcerting sign of weakness in her overall abilities, Diamond Lil manages to provide minute for minute more thrills for the fans and more perils for an opponent than Joe Stecher had holds, and he was the man of a thousand! How then to write convincingly of her athletic prowess without resorting to archaic utterances we're all sick and tired of listening to?

Lil herself is no help. When I asked her in what areas she'd wrestled, she answered, "Oh, I've been everywhere."

"Which was your favorite place?"

"Hawaii."

"How long were you there?"

"A month."

"Why did you like it?"

"Because it's beautiful."

"What did you not like about it?"

"Nothing."

". . .Okay. What kind of food do you eat?"

"Any kind."

"Aren't there any foods you try to avoid, though?"

"Nope."

"Well, how do you train?"

"I don't. I wrestle."

"Are you saying that wrestling several nights a week keeps you in shape?"

"Sure."

". . .Okay. If a young girl came to you and said she wanted to become a professional wrestler, would you encourage her or discourage her, and why?"

"I wouldn't do either one."

"Why not?"

"Because it'd be up to her."

"Well, is there any special message you want to relate to young hopefuls or to the public in general?"

"Naw, I guess not."

By now you've received the correct impression that outside the ring Diamond Lil is not the most garrulous conversationalist in the world. In the same piecemeal question-and-answer fashion recounted above I learned that Lil comes from Richmond, Virginia, she has two brothers in the air force and a married sister, she likes country music, her favorite actor is Paul Newman, she likes to play pool and go fishing, and she was trained for the mat by none other than the Fabulous Moolah who also bestowed upon her the ring name by which she's recognized from coast to coast and beyond.

She sounds in print like somewhat of a dullard, doesn't she? Take it from me she's not! I talked with her after a rough and tumble but losing battle she'd just waged against Darling Dagmar for the world crown. Maybe she was too tired and disappointed to care about sharing her thoughts and dreams with others. Or perhaps like her mentor Moolah, she prefers secrecy for her private affairs so as to achieve mobility for her professional life.

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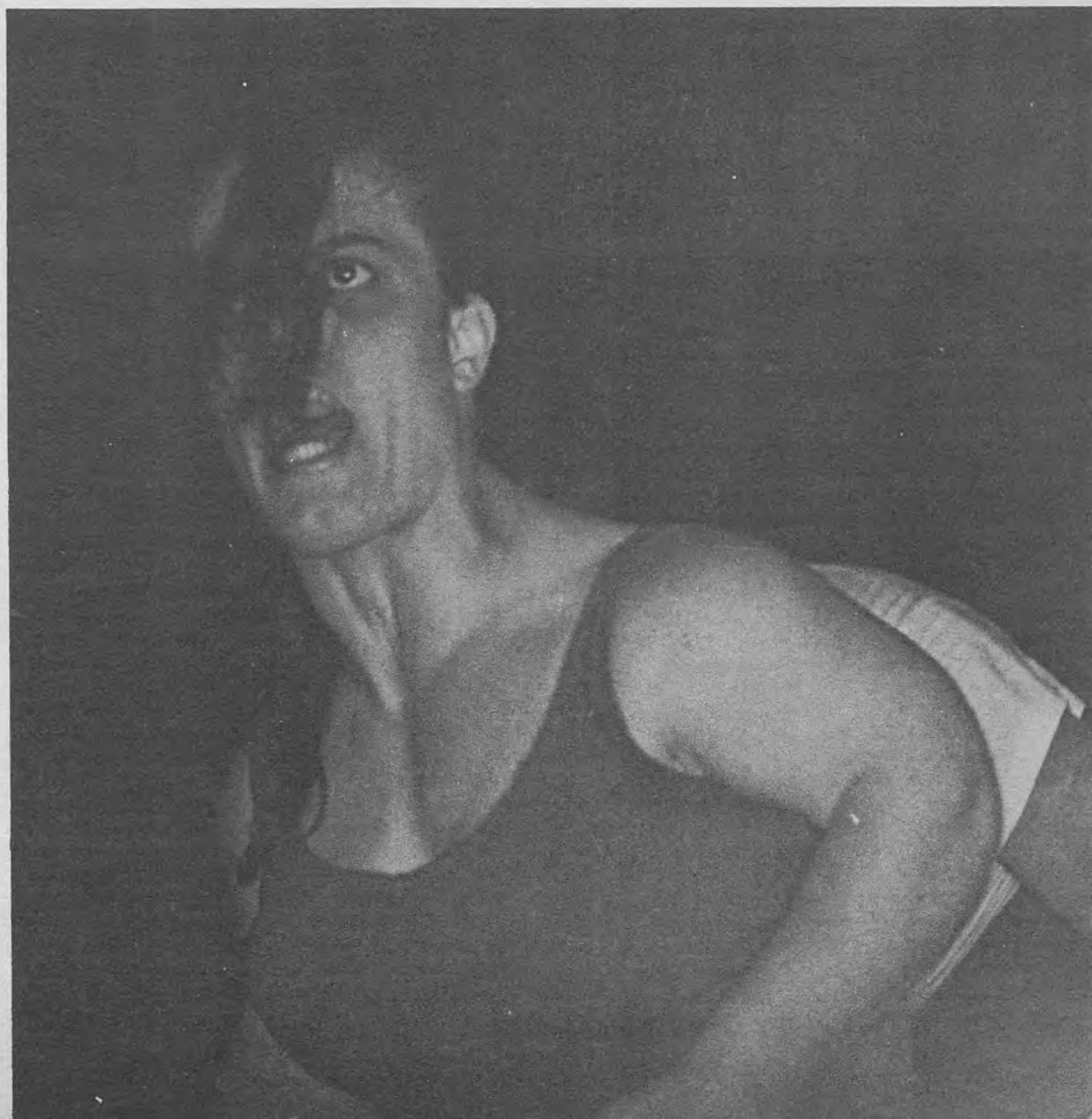
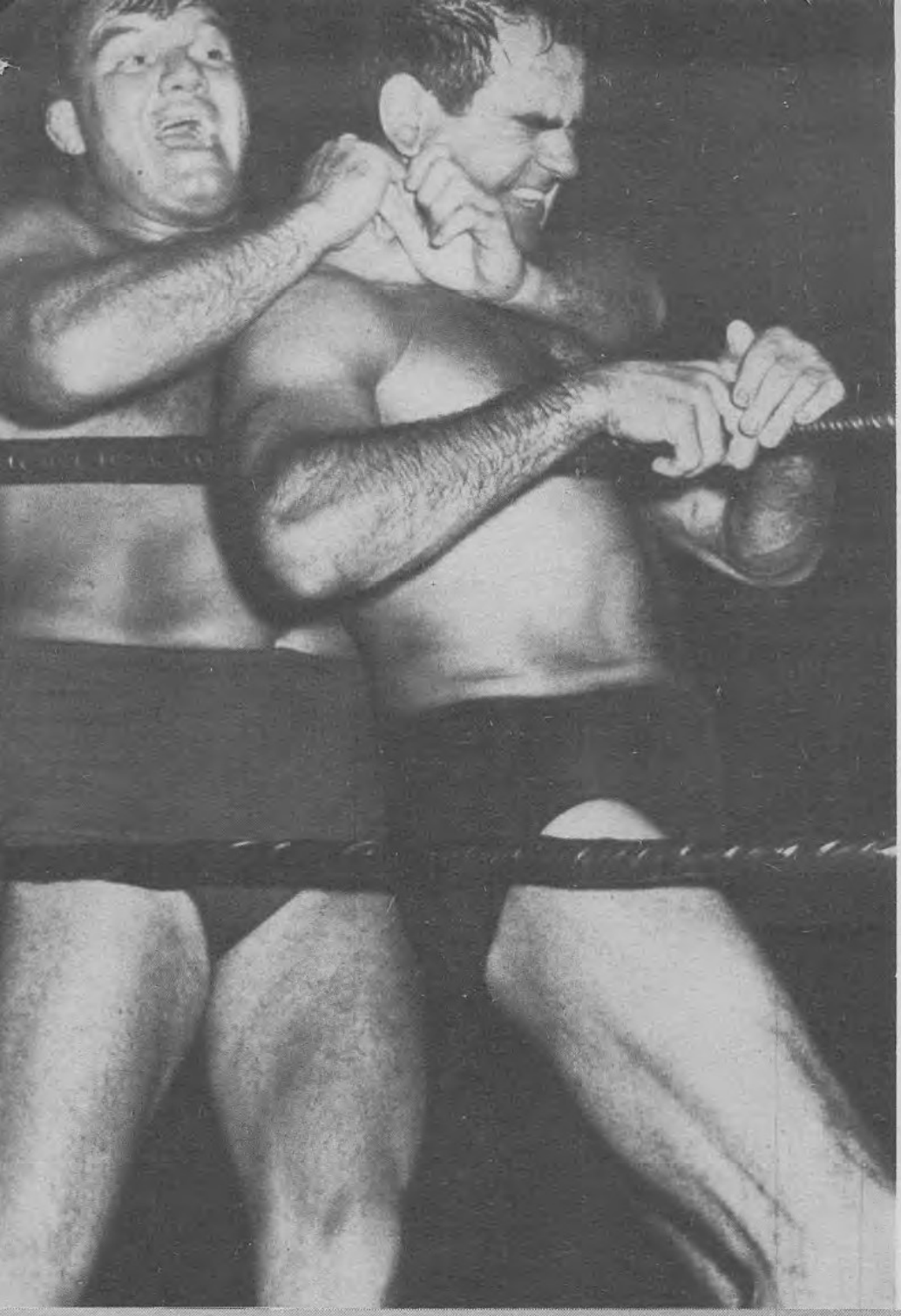


Diamond Lil fights with her lungs as well as her body. In every match she tells off opponents, referees, fans and anyone else who crosses her path.



One of Lou Thesz's top foes was Canadian Billy Whipper Watson, here seen applying a neck-lock on Lou. Lou won the title twice from Watson, in 1947 and 1956, and lost it to him once, in 1956.

RING Interview: Lou Thesz, 6 Time Champ

By GARY BALLARD

LOU Thesz carved out an eternal reputation in one of history's most demanding of sports the hard way. He did it by sweating blood, breaking bones, tearing ligaments, catching punches to the stomach and kicks to the head. He did it by hanging around in an impossibly tough profession longer than practically any other two stars combined. He did it by winning the National Wrestling Alliance World Heavyweight Title on six different occasions, by holding that championship for an incredible total of 14 years and by defending it more times than there are hairs in Bull Curry's eyebrows.

Lou's counterpart in the boxing world, Joe Louis, only held his crown for twelve years and defended it 25 times, a seemingly insignificant accomplishment when contrasted with Louis. But there's no value in comparing apples with peaches, as they say. Joe Louis's record holds for boxing; Lou Thesz's scoresheet set the standard for wrestling.

A recent conversation with Thesz revealed his memories of the men he traded holds with for title honors. He said, "I won the title the first time in 1937 from Everett Marshall. He's not remembered too widely today. His reputation has been overshadowed in the last thirty years by more flamboyant champions, but he was a man worthy of the title. He had a great deal of determination, was really strong and always paced his matches aggressively. I had youth and stamina on my side, so I just kept prolonging the match with a series of clinches and counterholds till he grew winded enough for me to pin him. It wasn't easy, though, because he was smart enough to know what I was doing and almost pinned me several different times while I was stalling the action."

You lost the title to Steve Crusher Casey the following year. Is that right?

Lou Thesz and Barone Leone pose before the start of their memorable match in Los Angeles, California, in 1952. Ed Lewis is to Thesz's left, referee Dick Patton, to the right.

Thesz frowned and replied, "Yes, but Casey should never have had the title. Of all the people I've won the title from or lost it to, he was probably the least qualified to have it. I was just recuperating from a neck injury—in fact had only been out of the hospital for about four days—when I went against him. That was foolish of me, of course. I'd know better than that today, but back then I was too full of fire and vinegar to use common sense. He beat me, but if I could have had him a month earlier or a month later, he wouldn't have stood a chance."

"What happened next?"

"Well," Thesz continued, "Casey didn't last long. In fact, Marshall got the title again within a few months. Then in 1939 I got my second crack at both Marshall and the title. Psychologically I had an edge over Marshall because I had beaten him before, and I used that advantage for all it was worth. At the end of the bout I was champion again."

"You locked horns with a bronc next, right?"

Thesz chuckled. "Yeah. That same year I wrestled Bronko Naruski, the ex-football player. Bronko was a great athlete, but I was not impressed with him as a wrestler. His manager kept telling me how he was going to beat me. I said, 'Forget it. He can't wrestle.' I beat Bronko for the first fall in eleven minutes. On the way back to the dressing room I caught his manager's eye and said, 'I told you he can't wrestle.' He said, 'He'll get you the next fall.' I just laughed at that, of course. Then Bronko beat me the next two falls. How he did it I don't know."

Lou Thesz as he looked when he was world heavyweight champion back in the early 1950's. With Lou is the late Ed "Strangler" Lewis, Thesz's manager. The duo formed one of the shrewdest pairs the wrestling world has known.

Thesz laughed enjoyably at that frustration of long ago.

"All right. That was 1939. You won the title again in 1947. What happened all those years in between?"

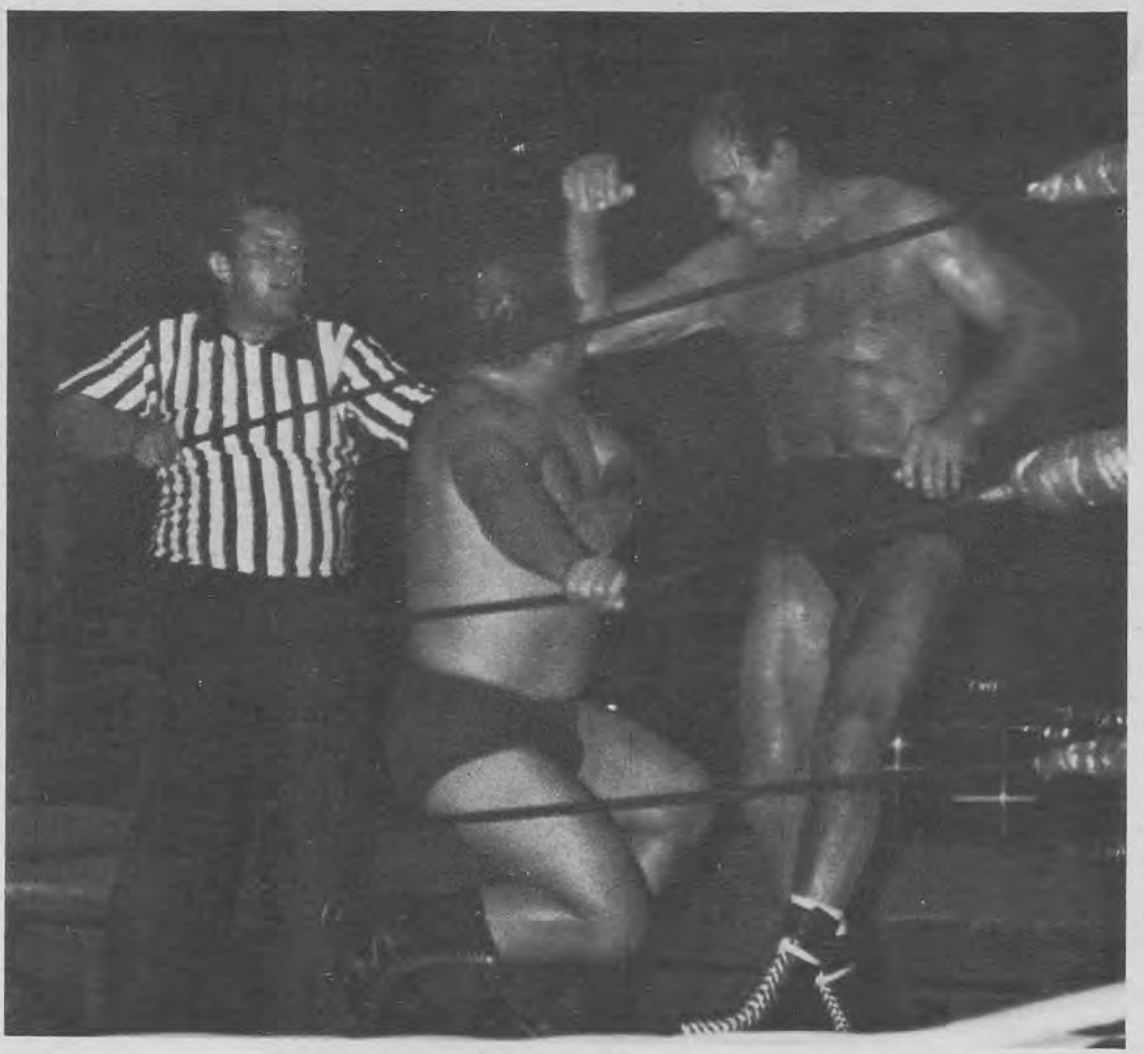
"A lot of good wrestlers happened," grinned Thesz. "Those were the years that Sandor Szabo, Yvon Robert, Bobby Managoff, Wild Bill Longson and Whipper Billy Watson were swapping the title. They were all excellent champions who made it difficult for a challenger to get anywhere."

"In '47 you started swapping with them."

"You bet I did," he agreed. "I won it in '47 from Watson, lost it the same year to Longson, won it back from Longson in '48, held on to it this time till '56 when Watson slipped it away from me again. But I didn't let him keep it long. I took it back from him before the year was out."

"Whipper Watson and Bill Longson were both great wrestlers. Anyone who held the championship more than once would have to be. How do you evaluate them?"

"Watson was a good wrestler, very good. He was extremely versatile, and he always worked and trained hard. Longson was very, very tough. He fought hard to stay on top in



After having been champion six times, and holding the title for fourteen years, Lou continues to amaze fans today with his natural ability. Here he is seen in a counter move against Lorenzo Parente in a recent match in Nashville.

every match he had."

"You've praised them both, but be more specific. Which would you say was the better wrestler of the two?"

Lou hesitated and wrinkled his brow as he recalled the skills of those two matmen. "Well, actually it was a toss-up between the two on any given night. However, it seemed as if Watson fared better on his home ground than when he was away from home on the road. That's a drawback, because if you're a champion, you can't worry about who's watching you out there and who's not. You have to blot it out and concentrate on wrestling your best regardless of whether they're cheering you on as the hometown favorite or razzing you as the out-of-state johnny-come-lately. Because of that, I'd have to give Longson a bit of an edge."

"Okay. Continue. You won it again from Watson in '56 and . . ."

". . . And I lost it again to Dick Hutton in '57. Let me tell you about Hutton. He's the purest and best wrestler in this half of the century. He had the ability to make great wrestlers—tremendous wrestlers—look sloppy. But like Marshall he wasn't a flashy performer, so he's been largely forgotten by the press and a lot of the fans too. Also he made an adequate amount of money and only wrestled once in awhile. He was content to do that. He didn't feel the need to break attendance records or to continue traveling all over the world indefinitely."

"In 1963 you moved from greatness to immortality when you won the title for your sixth time. You took it from Buddy Rogers. What about him?"

"Rogers was a good wrestler, but he lacked courage. Still he beat a lot of good wrestlers. He psyched them out is what he did. He tried to psyche me out, but he's German and I'm German, so I'm on to his game and I wouldn't let him. I remember he said to me once over in Europe, 'I'm gonna have to beat you some day' and I said, 'No way, baby! Never!' And he never did."

"That leaves your final loss of the title to Gene Kiniski."

"Yes, that was in '66. Kiniski stays in good condition all the time, he's a tough opponent, and most of all he's very big. It seems like he fills up half the ring just by stepping through the ropes. In spite of his size he moves like a middleweight. This makes him tough to handle. A few years ago I was asked to name my five toughest opponents. One of them I named was Killer Kowalski because he was such an awesome size and had incredible strength and speed. Kiniski has easily replaced Kowalski because his conditioning is always tops, something Kowalski has let slide in the last few years. I remember Kiniski would telegraph all his moves. He'd try to get one of his Sunday holds on me, I'd see it coming and slip out of it, and he'd curse me and keep charging with his next maneuver. Nothing stopped him."

"You've continued wrestling since then on at least a semi-regular basis and your percentage of wins is still higher than your losses. To what do you attribute your longevity in the sport and how have you managed to retain your skills for nearly 40 years in such an arduous profession?"

Lou smiled and replied, "Well, Gary, I could give you all the usual answers about regular training, good diet and so forth, but instead I'm going to tell you about the Ray Steele Philosophy. Steele wrestled back in the days of Everett Marshall, and for a number of reasons, including the fact that he never earnestly aimed for it, he never became world champ even though most wrestlers agreed he could have. At various times in non-title bouts he beat me and Marshall and just about everybody else around in those days. He'd tell you exactly what he was going to do, then he'd do it. He had such fantastic speed you couldn't stop him. His secret was concentration. He'd concen-

(Continued on page 52)

Sue Green And Belle Starr Help Change The Image

By RANDY POWELL

(Above) Belle Starr screams in pain from the tight toe hold Sue Green is applying, but the tables are turned (below), and Sue's shoulders are on the mat for a count of two.

TWO top lady wrestlers show their talents in Roanoke.

From toe holds, headlocks, dropkicks, scissors holds, etc., these two girls show their professionalism with perfection.

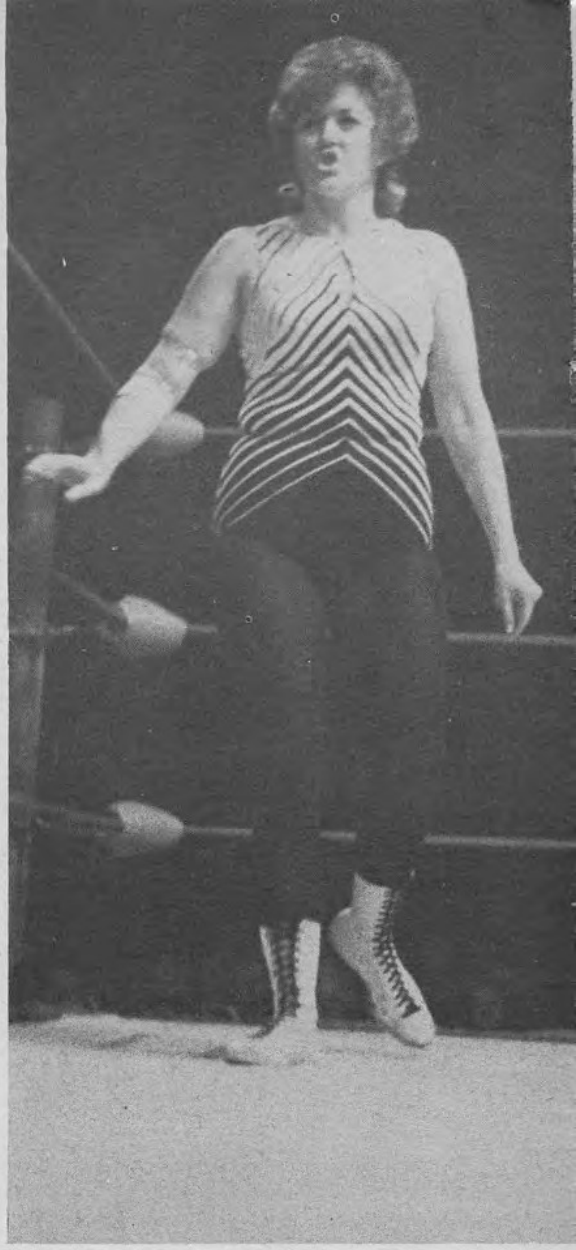
Belle Starr, from North Carolina, and Sue Green, from Texas, are crowd drawers and crowd pleasers.

The scientific maneuvers of both girls help to erase the old image of hairpulling, biting, scratching and the dirty tactics so many have used in the past.

Years ago, the heavier wrestlers turned to the ways of drawing attention instead of drawing spectators. People wanted to see more technique, and still do. Now they have it.

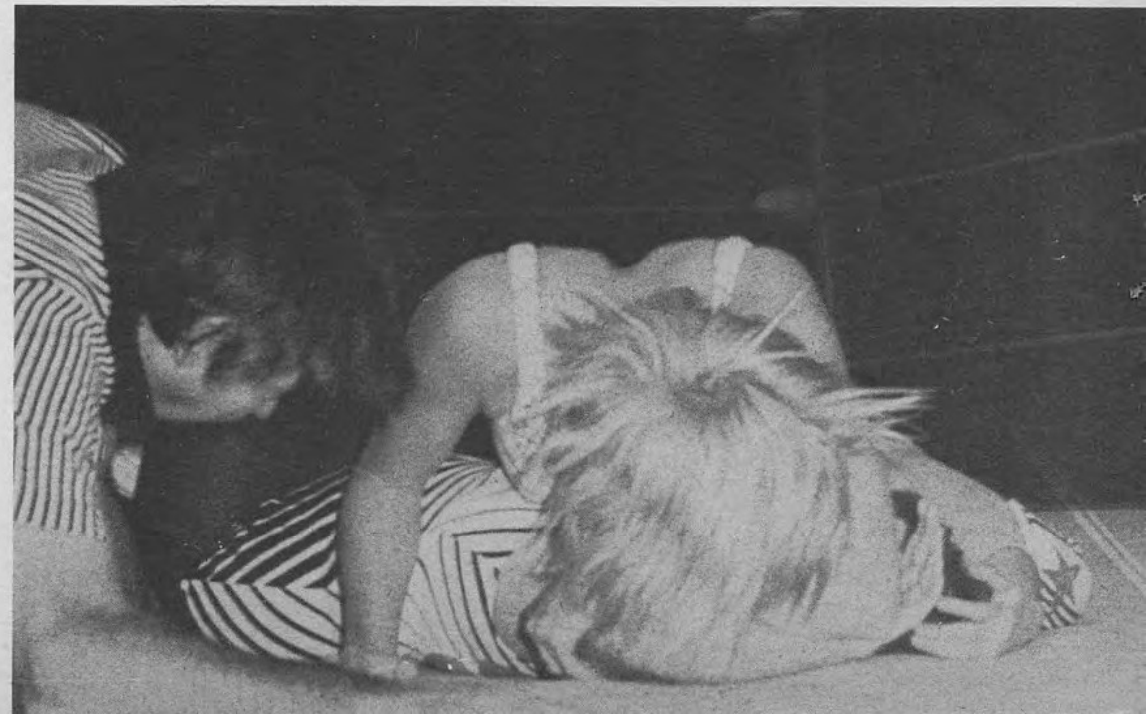
Today, girl wrestlers are showing their best efforts in giving the fans a good match.

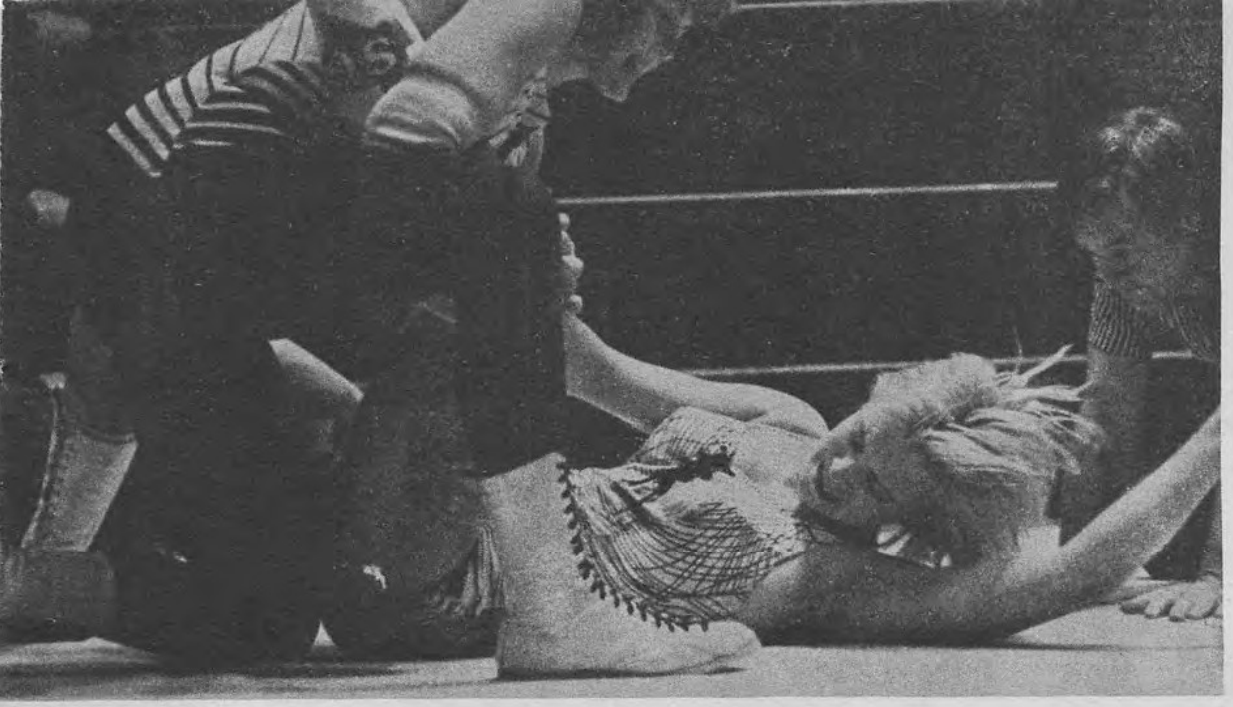
These photos are a descriptive essay on the Sue Green-Belle Starr match, and although technically Sue pinned Belle for the victory, all of those in attendance were also winners, as witnesses to how the girls continue to get better and better.



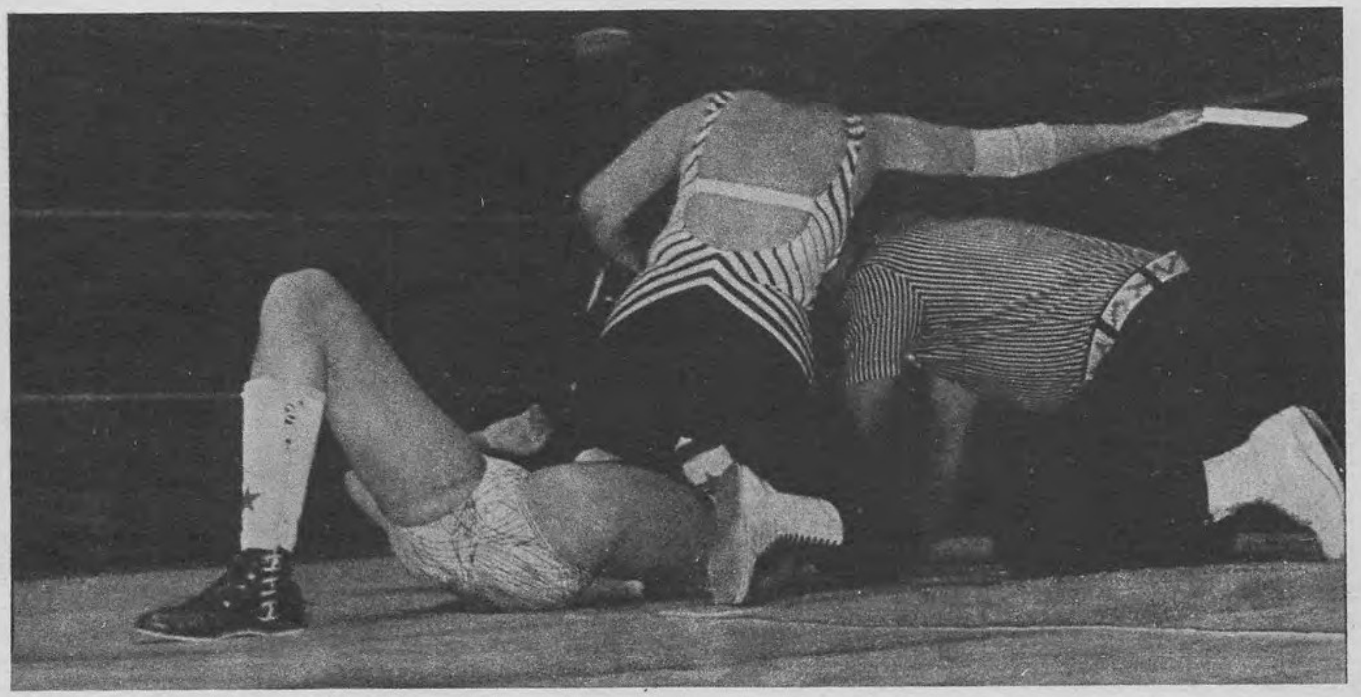
Belle is proud to be from North Carolina, and strolls across the ring to correct an erring announcer.

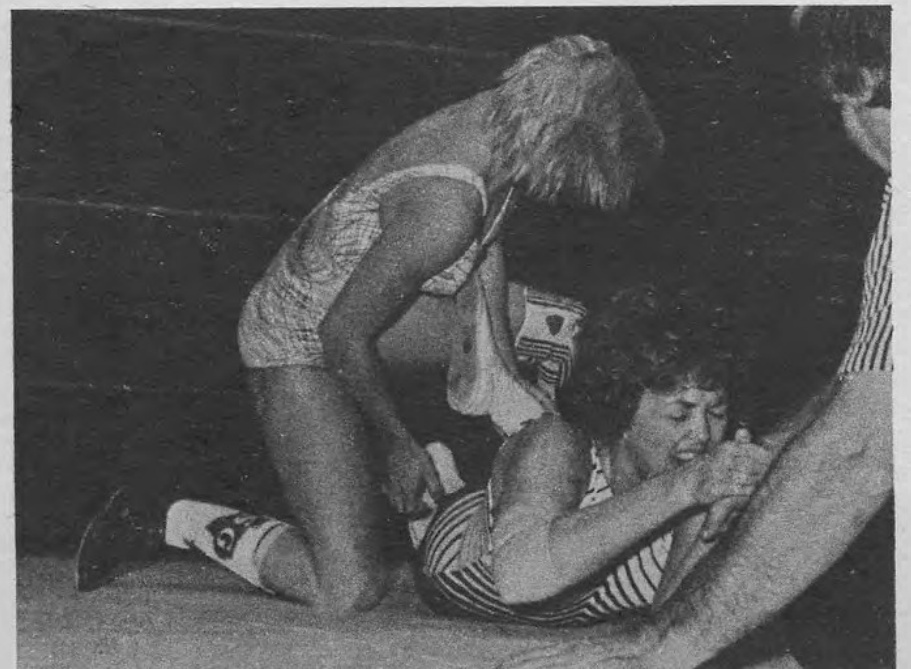
(Above) Sue sets Belle up for a pin with a drop kick, then proceeds (right) to execute a cross pin for a three count. (Below) Texas' Sue Green in western garb.



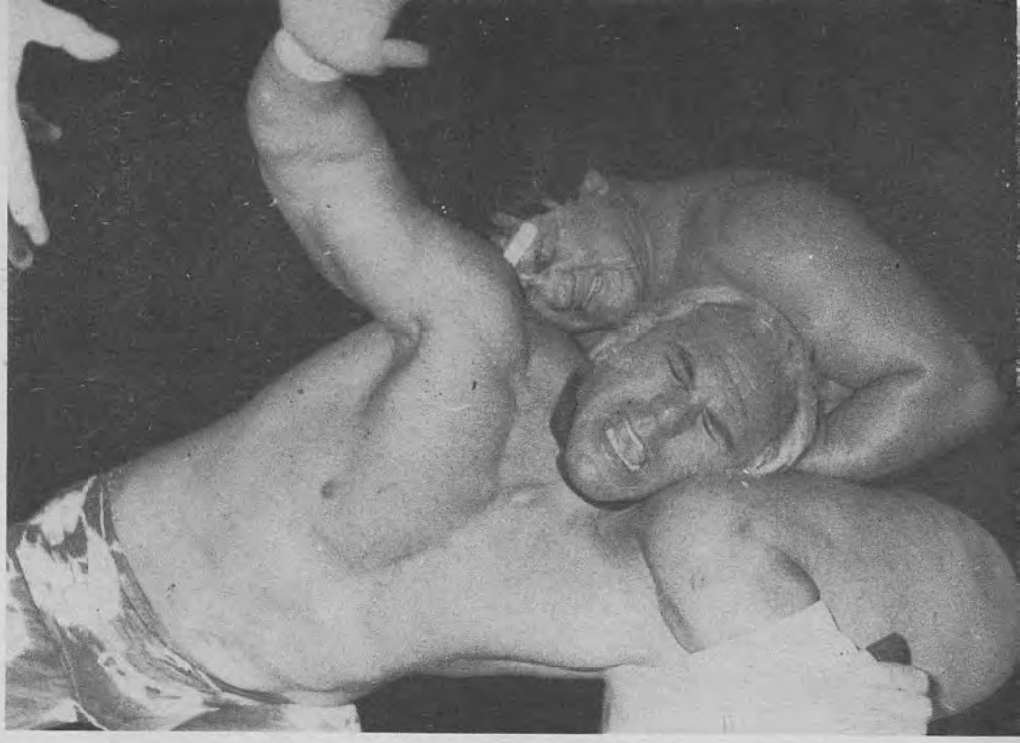


Sue Green carefully keeps her right shoulder off the canvas as Belle Starr works on Sue's leg. The referee keeps a close eye on the maneuvers in order to begin the count, should Sue's shoulder hit the mat.





(Above) In a match that showed excellent technique, this step over leg lock as Belle grabs for the ropes was one of the few un-scientific holds employed. (Left) Belle is all tied up by Sue, but her entreaties for help go unanswered by the referee. Judging from the look on Belle's face, she isn't finding Sue's hold at all comfortable!



(Right) Wahoo McDaniel takes the strap and chokes villain Billy Graham unmercifully. (Below) McDaniel stands over a fallen Graham ready to drag the self proclaimed Superstar around the ring.

McDaniel Wins Strap Match Over Graham

By JACK O'SHEA

Photos By George Napolitano

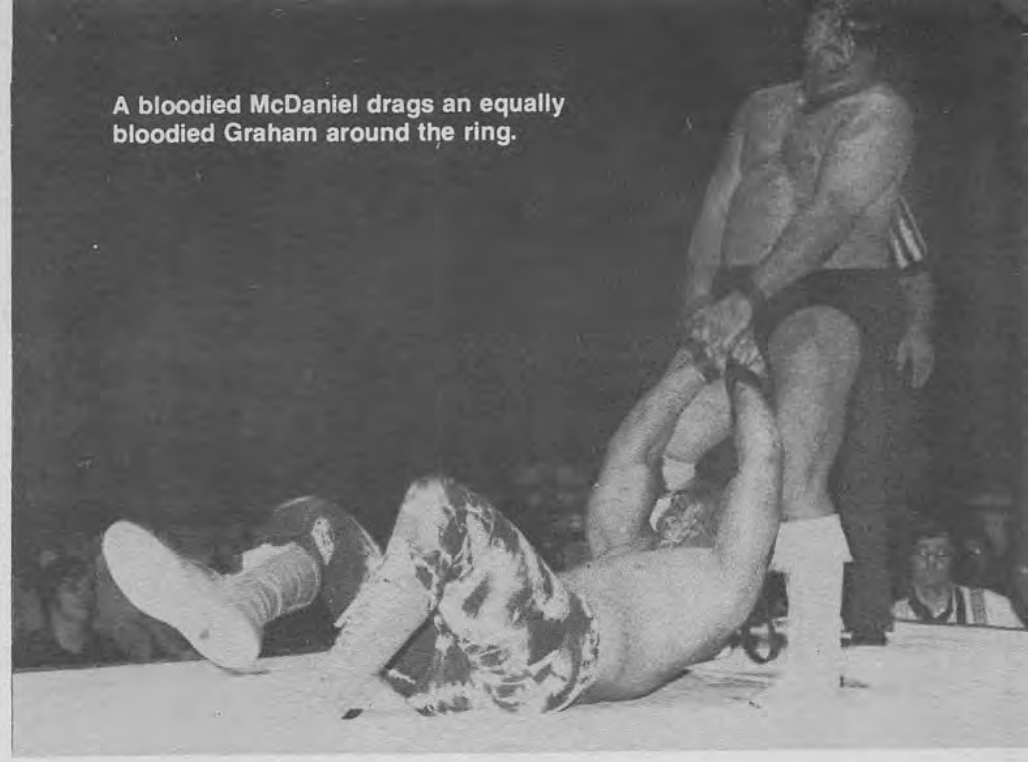
"IF I don't win my match with the Supermouth tonight, you will never see me in this area again," a determined Wahoo McDaniel stated prior to his battle with the self-proclaimed Superstar, Billy Graham. "The fans here have been great to me, but I feel that I let them down the last time I faced that villian. Now I am determined to win this match and finish him off for good. He's just been ranting and raving about anything and everything and I am plain sick and tired of him and all his antics.

"Everything was just going great for me in this area before he came around, but now the Virginia-Carolina area isn't big enough for both of us. I figure it's either him or me, and tonight's Indian Strap Match should settle things once and for all. He's the one who wanted this match, but he'll be sorry that he did, because I've never lost a match of this type.

"I've wrestled in hundreds of these strap matches and I know just how to use the strap to its best advantage. Tonight I'm positive that I will use this knowledge against the Superstar."

The beautiful Richmond Coliseum was packed to capacity as the fans anxiously awaited the clash between their favorite, Wahoo

Graham is about to bang Wahoo's head into the metal ring post, but McDaniel promptly retaliated in kind. When the two were finished trading blows, both of their faces were bloody masses.



A bloodied McDaniel drags an equally bloodied Graham around the ring.

McDaniel, and Superstar Billy Graham. As the preliminary matches were taking place, Superstar went through his invigorating training routine in his dressing quarters. "This is what you have to do to be a star of my magnitude," the Superstar stated while going through his pre-match warmups. "There's not a wrestler around who can come close to matching my physical prowess. I am in a class all by myself, and tonight I will outshine that Wahoo McDaniel so bad that he'll regret the day he ever had the gall to step into the same ring with Superstar Graham.

"I've beaten, humbled, humiliated, annihilated this renegade in many arenas all around these parts, and later on I'm gonna scalp him again. Right now I want to get back to my workout, so if you're finished with your stupid questions you can be on your way."

You could feel the tension mounting as everyone awaited the big confrontation. Soon Wahoo McDaniel appeared in view and as he did the crowd went wild. Wahoo walked straight to the ring, a determined look clearly evident upon his brow. Several minutes elapsed before the Superstar emerged from the dressing room, but he was not alone as he was followed close behind by his protege Steve Strong.

When Wahoo spotted Strong walking with Graham to the ring, the Indian immediately ran back to the dressing room to get some help of his own. Within seconds Wahoo re-emerged with the U.S. champ Paul Jones right by his side. As soon as Graham and Wahoo's eyes meet they immediately begin to pound each other repeatedly. Then both men crawled into the ring and started to fight for survival. The referee tried to put the straps around the combatants' wrists, but he was experiencing quite a bit of trouble with this task, as both men would not stop fighting for a second. Soon, however, Wahoo sent Graham flying to the mat with a devastating forearm smash. With Graham lying flat on the mat the referee finally clamped the straps around their wrists, and the match was officially underway.

Wahoo took the opening advantage by wrapping the strap around Graham's body. With the blond tied in a knot, Wahoo began to pound away. The Superstar was helpless! Graham tried desperately to escape, but the more he moved the more McDaniel took advantage of the situation by kicking punching and gouging the blond. Wahoo, sensing an early victory, started to drag Graham around

McDaniel had stated before the match that he had never lost a strap match, and here he shows his stuff as he chokes Graham with the leather thong.

the ring, and Wahoo was all set for a victory when Steve Strong reached into the ring and tripped McDaniel as he was about to drag Graham around for the final time.

Now the tide quickly turned as the Superstar began to take command. With Wahoo lying on the mat, Graham, along with his friend Steve Strong went to work on the fallen Indian cutting his head in the process. Paul Jones, seeing what was happening to McDaniel, then ran around the ring to help the Indian, but the damage had already been inflicted. With Wahoo bleeding heavily, the Superstar sadistically began to distribute more and more punishment.

(Continued on page 66)

FAN CLUB NEWS

By TOM BURKE

IT is only a few months away before the 9th annual WFIA Convention will take place. Miss Diane Devine is the chairperson and informs me that things are rolling along just fine. The dates for the three day affair are July 15th, 16th and 17th in Kansas City, Missouri, at the Phillips House Hotel. The registration fee for the Convention is $20.00 and should be sent directly to Miss Devine. For more detailed information about the Convention drop Diane a stamped self addressed envelope and she will provide you with the details. Her address is: PO Box 1902, Bechtold Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63118.

I would like to take this time to answer a few general questions that are always being asked. The first question is in reference to how to start a fan club. If you are serious and want to start a club for your favorite wrestler you must acquire his or her signed permission. Send the permission slip to me and the other fan club columnists. A good idea before you even start a fan club is to join one and find out how one works. Get involved in a club. Send in results, stories and comments to the club president so he or she can put it in the club's bulletin. One factor you must remember before you start a fan club is that it is far from money making. Many times you will have to dish out money for postage, paper, envelopes and other things in order to run a good club. Fan clubs are a great thing, and I will always support them; however, before you jump the gun, join a club and become active so you know what you're getting into.

The team of Rudy Iseli and Glenn Ottaway continue to put out one of the best fan club bulletins around today.The Canadian Wrestling Revue covers the mat action all over the Maple Leaf. The reports are of great interest and are very well done. If you want to follow the mat scene in Canada then send 35¢ for a single issue or $2.50 for a year's subscription to CWR, c/o Rudy Iseli, 25 Fisherville Rd., Apt. 809, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2R 3B7. Rudy is doing an excellent job as a ring announcer at a number of spot shows in and around Toronto.

This columnist recently received a letter from a Lynn Willingham of 261 Old Asworth Road, Dallas, Georgia 30132. Miss Willingham is going to start a fan club (general) along with a couple of friends. She needs some help with articles and results so if you have a minute or two, write Lynn a letter and see if you can get on the staff.

Rosemary Lott continues to be the president of the Geoff Portz fan club. The recent issue of their bulletin entitled "Spin" consisted of eleven pages of wrestling news and a photo page. Each issue of "Spin" is packed with news on Geoff as well as other wrestling personalities. If you are a Portz fan then join the bandwagon by sending in $3.50 a year. That $3.50 entitles members to a color photo of Geoff and six excellent bulletins a year. Club address is: 34 Nemy Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2Y 0K5.

Ken Jugan informs me that he has given up his fan club for Greg Valentine. Ken continues to head his club for Luis Martinez. Yearly dues are $3.50 for which members receive an 8×10 of Luis, a membership card and also a bi-monthly bulletin. Single copy of the club bulletin sells for only 40¢.

Another club that Ken Jugan heads is the Three Rivers Wrestling Association. This is a fine club that gives general wrestling info and news to its members. A sum of $3.50 will bring you five issues of TRWA's bulletin. Issue number six contained 22 pages of wrestling news. If you are interested in a sample copy send Ken 75¢. Ken's address is: 434 Ohio Ave., Glassport, Pa. 15045. Ken has two winners here.

Spiros Arion is off to Australia, and while he is gone club president Danny Drillis will have regular reports.

Universal Wrestling has closed up shop. Paul Fishbein the president of UWFC has terminated publishing his fine bulletin.

Marilea Niedzial continues to run the Valiant Brothers Fan Club with great success. Marilea issues a quarterly bulletin filled with news and comments on Jimmy and Jon. Dues are $2.75 a year. Besides the quarterly bulletins, Marilea also issues a number of interesting items. Contact Marilea at the following address: West Boylston Rd., Berlin, Ma. 01503.

Tom Maoli of 32 Hope St., Nutley, N.J. 07110 sent me a copy of his bulletin for Chief Jay Strongbow. The bulletin consisted of nine pages of photo-stat pics and typewritten articles on Chief Jay. I don't have the information on the dues for the club or what other items are issued to members. I suggest you contact Tom for more information.

Global Wrestling is not a fan club but a wrestling fan service. Some of the features that are offered by Global Wrestling are as follows. A set of ten special wrestling nostalgia sheets printed on both sides on 8×11 size paper. A single sheet sells for 35¢ with a stamped self addressed envelope. We also have Individual Wrestler Nostalgia sheets. These are professionally printed on both sides of 8×14 size paper and contain highlights on the careers of various wrestlers. At the present we have printed sheets on Bruno Sammartino, Killer Kowalski, Buddy Rogers, The Sheik, Vern Gagne, and The Bruiser. More will be added in the future. Price for these special individual sheets is only 50¢ each plus a stamped self addressed envelope. GW also offers to the wrestling public a monthly newsletter entitled Global Wrestling News Serice. This monthly news sheet is professionally printed on 8×14 size paper and filled with current news, results, comments, pictures, nostalgia from around the wrestling world. A recent issue of GWNS contained results from Japan, Australia, England, South Africa, Canada and all across the U.S. GWNS is truly an item for the sincere wrestling fan. Send 25¢ plus a stamped self addressed envelope to Global Wrestling, 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Mass. 01108 for a current copy of GWNS. Also ask for an information and sales sheet when you order something.

GW has many other interesting features. I would like to mention in behalf of GW and other fan clubs and wrestling services that when an ad reads enclose a stamped self addressed envelope, please do so. GW will make substitutions in any orders when a stamped self addressed envelope is not included. When you write to Global Wrestling or any other club or service requesting information include a stamped self addressed envelope. All these people are running on a tight budget and in order to run properly a SSAE is of great help.

David Lopatin continues to put out a news filled wrestling bulletin entitled Baltimore Civic Center Closeups. The last issue I have seen contained 18 pages of facts, results and news of wrestling in Baltimore and other WWWF cities as well as nationwide results. Published with great care this is one of the finest fan club bulletins around. More info is

available by writing to Dave at 6815 Maurleen Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21309. Don't forget that SSAE!

Ms Carol Jean Peddycoart is the president of the Larry Hennig Fan Club and informs me that the dues for her club are $3.50 a year. That includes a membership card, four bulletins and two color photos. One photo is a 3×5 size while the other is 5×7. A single copy of her excellent bulletin sells for 75¢ an issue. Club address is: 409 North 16th St., Moorhead, Minn. 56560.

Georgia Wrestling News passed my desk since the last issue of RING WRESTLING. Issued by Jerry L. Boyd, this monthly bulletin is the top wrestling news sheet from the Peach State. Jerry also has news and results from outside of Georgia. Try a sample copy at 75¢. The address is Rte. 2, Box 690, Triffin, Ga. 30223.

All Star Wrestling is the name of the bulletin put out by Tony Weller, 3300 East Kimberly Road, Davenport, Iowa 52807. The bulletins are run off on a spirit copier and are printed on both sides of the page. I would personally like to see a different form of printing used for these bulletins. The contents of the bulletins are good; however, the printing could be better.

The AWA Fan Club continues to do justice to the wrestling talent in that circuit. Each issue of the monthly bulletin is packed with up to the minute news on the AWA. Single copy of the bulletin is only 65¢ or $7.75 for a year's subscription. Twenty-two pages is not uncommon in the AWA bulletins. Always filled with pictures this photostated journal is one of the best circuit reports around. The editor is Tom Savage and his co-editor is Dan Pinowar. Club address is: 508 N. Westmore, Villa Park, Ill. 60181.

The Dean Ho Fan Club continues to do well under the direction of John Dormajian. The club issues an interesting bulletin as well as a club badge and other items for their members. John is accepting members now and if you are interested in the club send John a stamped self addressed envelope for more information. If you would like a sample of the club bulletin send John 35¢ plus a 13¢ stamp. John's address is: 35 Winthrop Rd., Everett, Ma. 02149.

Bill Kunkle and Arnie Katz have been editors of Main Event for over a year now. This publication is professionally printed and has to be in the opinion of this columnist one of the best publications of a non newsstand variety around today. Each issue is done with great care and professionalism. Main Event carries news, inside stories, interviews, on the scene reports of MSG cards and more. To keep in the know of what is going on in the WWWF then subscribe to Main Event. The price is $3.00 for six issues. You won't be dissatisfied. The address is: PO Box 163, Richmond Hills, N.Y. 11418.

Danny Drills of 385 Chestnut Street #208, Lynn, Mass. 01902 heads the Spiros Arion Fan Club. Danny and his chief writer Donny Laible of New York City have put together a fine bulletin entitled "The Man."

The Mighty Igor poses for photographer Terrance Machalek, who has a large selection of wrestling photos for sale.

The club issues four bulletins a year. Issue number two of the club's publication contained ten pages plus a picture cover page. An interview with Spiros, an excellent article on The Grand Wizard by Donny Laible was featured, along with news, ratings, unscramble names and above all, news on their honorary. Dues are $3.00 a year and very good. A sample copy of the bulletin sells for 40¢ plus a stamped self addressed envelope.

An old buddy of mine named Mike Omansky continues to issue Rasslin' Wonders. In its second year this publication is a bit different from the average fan club bulletin. Mike likes to add regular feature stories in his publication along with a scrapbook page filled with old wrestling clips, question and answer column, photo pages, news and more. Professionally printed, this is a really good deal if you like your wrestling reading in a light manner but with quality. Try it I am sure you will like it. Send just $2.00 for

(Continued on page 59)

(Above left) Ace photographer Gene Gordon took this picture of Brenda Starr, one of the many in his photo collection. (Right) Club president Mick Karch jokes around with his honorary Nick Bockwinkel.

The RING ON AND AROUND THE MAT WORLD

By NAT LOUBET

Professor Tanaka, on his way to a win in the Tennessee area under the Bulas promotions, will be remembered for his rough and tough style of grappling when he was the tag team partner of Mr. Fuji.

NEW YORK CITY area wrestling fans were treated to some superb wrestling on MSG card when Billy Robinson made his Big Apple wrestling debut. The Manchester Lion took on Johnny Rodz and made quick work of him by defeating Rodz after 12 minutes of excellent action. The following month MSG fans saw the pride of Japan, Inoki, in a special match. Inoki, like Robinson, is a wrestler of great skill, and he showed it in his match against Frank Monte. Fabulous Frankie did his best, but just wasn't as good as Inoki. Promoter Vince McMahon is to be congratulated for bringing in this talent.

Jack Brisco lost his NWA title to Terry Funk in Miami, Florida. This will give Jack's brother Jerry a chance at the title while it puts Terry's brother and former champion, Dory, Jr., in the back seat.

When Nick Bockwinkle defeated Vern Gagne for the AWA title last year in St. Paul, Minnesota, the new champion had everything except a belt. The AWA championship was stolen in Davenport, Iowa, in the summer of 1975. Vern Gagne was defending his title against a leading contender. After the match was over and Gagne went to pick up the belt from the time keeper's table it was noticed that someone had lifted it. The belt was found recently in a mail box at the Davenport post office.

The above incident reminds me of the time Bruno Sammartino had his WWWF championship belt stolen. It was after a title match at the old MSG. Bruno went out to a famous restaurant and had parked his car in front of the Baltimore Theater. When he returned he noticed his car had been broken into, and after checking his personal belongings he noticed the $10,000 diamond studded belt was missing. That was in 1965. Who did Bruno wrestle that night? Tarzan Tyler.

Buddy Lee, wrestling star from the 50's, a country-western music talent agent, has returned to the grunt and groan business as a wrestling promoter. Buddy and well known entertainer Danny Davis, of the famed Nashville Brass, have formed the Universal Wrestling Association. The UWA has some fine talent under their banner such as: Lou Thesz, Dick Steinborn, Eric The Red, Rip Hawk, Luis Martinez, The Interns with Dr. Ken Ramey, Mark Starr, George Cannon, Pez Whatley and The Islanders with Saul Weingeroff. The UWA is promoting in Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and West Virginia. From this view point it looks like the South will have a big wrestling war this summer between the UWA and the NWA promotions of Nick Gulas, Lee Fields and Roy Welch. The mat fans in that area will be seeing a long string of top flight talent as one group tries to out do the other.

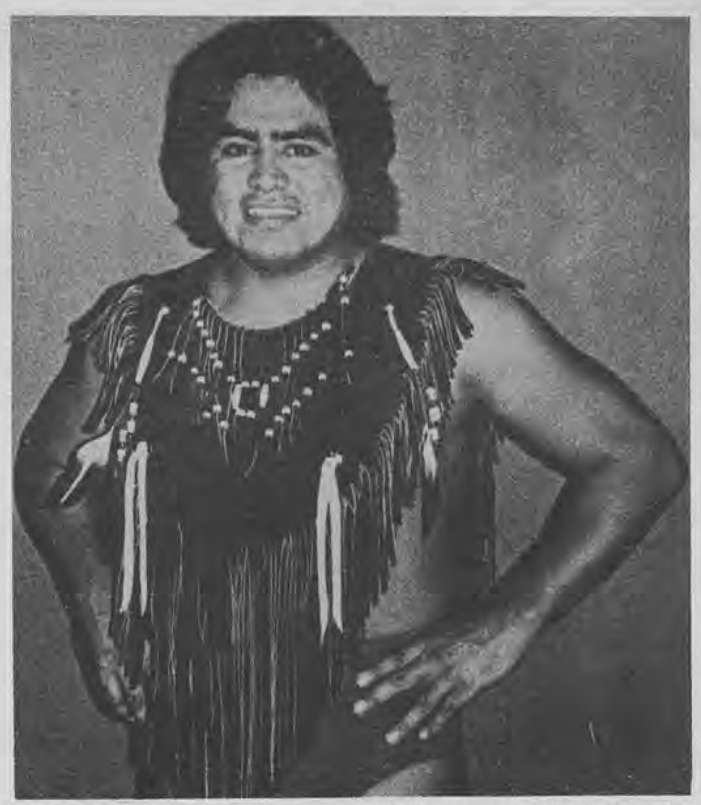
Did you know that. . .Hans Schmidt is an expert in spear fishing? . . .Hiro Matsuda has a wrestling and boxing gym in Miami. . .Spiros Arion has left the WWWF area for Australia? Arion has always been a success Down Under. In 1966 he held a version of the world title there.

Rick Crosby sent me his fine bulletin entitled Minneapolis Mania. Really enjoyed reading this one. Sample copy is 35¢ or if you like a year's subscription to this monthly journal send $2.00 to Rick at 3320 Xenwood Ave. S, Minneapolis, Mn. 55416.

Speaking of fan clubs, the Wrestling Fans International Association will be having their 9th annual convention in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 15th, 16th and 17th at the Phillips House Hotel. Chairlady Diane Devine wrote and told us that things are going well and that fans should make reservations early. The fee is $20

Billy Anderson, a Jr. heavyweight, back in action after a shoulder injury, is the heart throb of the girls in New Mexico.

An up and coming star, Benny Mendibles, is doing well in his home state of Arizona. Benny hails from Tucson and was a Viet Nam vet.



per person and should be sent directly to Diane. Her address is PO Box 1902, Bechold Station, St. Louis, Mo. 64105. This magazine will cover the event.

Over in Arizona the fans are excited over Tucson native, Benny Mendibles. Benny, a Viet Nam vet, has been wrestling for some five years now and has become a favorite in his home state. He is of Mexican-American descent. Benny just returned from a three-month tour South Of The Border. Several fans of his from Casa Grande recently wrote in to say that Benny will be more popular then Cowboy Bob Ellis, Tito Montez, Luks Martinez or Pepper Gomez in the next few years. That will take a little doing.

Montreal wrestling is becoming a little like feeding time at the zoo with such names as Wolfman, Bearman and The Beast on the same bill in one evening. At least the fans in Montreal have wrestlers like the Rougeaus to save the sport. With Montreal being the site for the 1976 Olympics, the Bob Langevin promotions should fair well with visiting pro wrestlers coming in to the Queen City as well as many fans to take in the Olympics.

Doug McLeer, president of the Pedro Morales Fan Club, sends word that his club is open for new members. So all you Pedro buffs can send in $4.00 to Doug at 24 Charles St., New Rochelle, NY 10801 and get a membership card, color photo of Pedro and 6 bi-monthly bulletins as well as a newletter every quarter.

Mike Omansky wrote to inform us of his new address for his RASLIN WONDERS Club. The new address is Box 1197, Union, N.J. 07083. For $2.00 you get three issues of a fine bulletin filled with news, stories and results along with pics.

The wrestling world was saddened recently over the death of Gust Karras. Mr. Karras was the NWA promoter in Kansas City, Missouri, as well as in other cities. He was 78 years old. He will be greatly missed by all the fans in the Central States as well as the wrestling profession. The British wrestling scene lost Arthur Wright of Manchester. Mr. Wright was one of the founding members of Joint Promotions in England. Like Gust Karras he was an important figure in the wrestling world.

Billy Superstar Graham tried his best to beat Bruno Sammartino at MSG but failed. . .Wonder if Ken Patera will be the next strongman-wrestler to come into the WWWF and challenge Sammartino. . .Word has it that the IWA is doing well in some cities in the south like Danville, Va., Winston-Salem, N.C., Chapel Hill, N.C., and others. . .

Kurt Von Steiger has retired from wrestling. . .Dean Ho is currently wrestling in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest and using his real name Dean Higuchi. The popular Dean got his start there some 10 years back. . .Ed Carpentier lost his chance for the NWA crown when Terry Funk defeated him in Toronto, Canada, recently. . .Scandor Akbar the wildman from the deserts of Saudi Arabia is reported to be just as mean and wild outside the ring as he is in. . .

Danny Miller is wrestling in the Carolinas and doing well. Big brother Bill is seeing action in St. Louis, Detroit, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh, and brother Ed is retired selling real estate in California. . .

Looks like Little Beaver has hung up his trunks. . .Sonny King doing well in the New Orleans area. . .Pat Patterson recently lost his U.S. championship to Mr. Fugi. Fugi's former partner, Professor Tanaka, is wrestling in Tenn. for the Gulas promotions. . .Young Billy Anderson has become a top favorite in New Mexico with the fans on the Indian reservations. . .

The New England Wrestling Association continues to promote matches with new and interesting talent. Many fine youngsters along with some season vets are on their programs. For information and dates of up coming shows write to NEWA at 170 Union St., Lynn, Mass. 01901. Mr. Jack Viles is the president of the group and is always interested in hearing from prospective wrestlers. . .

Biggest thing to hit Houston, Texas in a long time is The Mongolian Stomper. He has victories over Jose Lothario, Mil Mascarsas, Al Madril, Nick Kozak and others. . .Lord Al Hayes returned to England for the holidays. . .Randy Tyler is quite impressive in Western Texas. . .Ripper Roy Collins up in Calgary for promoter Stu Hart. The Ripper has held the RING MAGAZINE championship more times then any other wrestler. . .Kay Casey doing well in Motor City along with other gals like Candy Cane, Mary Jane Mull, Lucy Dupree, The Countess and Marva Scott and Heather Feather. . .

Kendo Nagazki is thinking of a tour of the U.S. and Canada again. . .Chris Colt and Count Drummer now hold the World Tag Team Championship with a victory over the Islanders. The title is recognized by the NWA. . .Promoter Rudy Kay looks for a successful season for his Maritime promotions. . .always good wrestling up Halifax way. . .Donny Liable of New York is a wrestling

(Continued on page 66)

Super Graham, left, seen here with veteran villain Ivan Koloff as they talk over strategy. Graham recently attempted to lift Bruno Sammartino's crown in Madison Square Garden, New York, but lost his bid in an exciting match.

The RW MAT MAIL

POLISH POWER?

Ivan Putski has been in the WWWF area for nearly a year now. In that time period I have heard him refer to his fellow brothers and sisters of Polish ancestry as "Polacks." This is a very derogatory term and an advocate of Polish Power would not be so offensive. The real Polish Power is with Killer Kowalski, Gene Kiniski, Crusher Lisowski, Larry Zbyszko and other Polish mat men that are true advocates of the movement.

Stanley Chodkiewicz
Bayonne, N.J.

LIKES RW FEATURES

Congratulations on putting out a wrestling magazine with truth! We see and read too many tall tales in some of the other wrestling publications. With RING WRESTLING I am assured to read fact not fiction. Keep up the good work.

George Willis
St. Paul, Minn.

LONDOS REMEMBERED

The article on the late Jimmy Londos brought back many fine memories. I knew the Golden Greek both as a man and a wrestler. I wrestled him in a city in Eastern Pennsylvania back in 1938. He was a fine wrestler and gave me the toughest match of my career. He will be remembered by many through the article and pictures in the October issue of RING WRESTLING.

Henry Hoffritz
Miami, Fla.

WANTS MORE ACTION STORIES

I would like to see more photo stories of wrestling matches involving such stars as Billy Robinson, The Sheik, Bruno Sammartino, Dusty Rhodes, Scandor Akbar, and John Tolos.

Marty George
Trenton, N.J.

DIGS DENUCCI

I just want to thank you for printing the story on Domenic DeNucci in your August 1975 issue. I just dig Domenic and the article was just great. Now you have to have an article on Kevin Sullivan.

Linda Paoli
Brooklyn, N.Y.

LESSER KNOWN GIRLS NEED PUBLICITY TOO

We are tired of reading articles on the so called established women wrestlers. We have seen scores of articles on Sue Green, Kay Noble, Anne Casey, Penny Banner and of course Fabulous Moolah. These girls have dominated the wrestling media too long. We would like to see articles on the lesser known girls such as: Heather Feather, Janice Jay, Betty Starr, Candi Cane, Ma Bass, Violet Ray and many others. So come on give the lesser known gals a break and give them some publicity.

Roger and Rhonda Rinewalt
Waco, Texas

Ed's note: Ring Wrestling has had articles on some of the lesser known gals in the past and we will continue with our policy to cover wrestling from all circuits both major league and independent.

A NEW SUPERSTAR IN THE MAKING

Here in Ohio we have a new wrestler by the name of Beautiful Bobby Colt. He is a real good wrestler and is going to be a champion some day. I would like to see a story on Bobby Colt in a future issue of your magazine.

Debbie Jones
Columbus, Ohio

RW A CREDIT TO WRESTLING

Congratulations to RING WRESTLING! Your magazine continues to publish decent articles about the wrestling profession and not the smut that has appeared in other so-called wrestling magazines. Amateur girl wrestling is fine and should be given coverage, however, the pornographic articles that have been printed in some magazines lowers the sport and the magazine.

L. Brant
Lewisville, Md.

CREDIT DUE GIVEN AT LAST

I just want to tell you folks at RING WRESTLING how much I enjoyed the article on Lee Fields the promoter here in Mobile, Alabama. Mr. Fields has always been a sincere man and his wrestling promotions are some of the best in the South. When Lee retired from wrestling and started to promote here he really uplifted the sport. Thanks again for publishing the article on Lee Fields.

Dennis Jackson
Mobile, Ala.

THE OX IS A WASTE

You wasted three pages in the March 1976 issue of RING WRESTLING with that article on Ox Baker. You should have done an article on the fan's favorite, Dick The Bruiser. The Ox is a waste in my book and it is only a matter of time till the Bruiser gets him good.

Barry Higgins
Richmond, Ind.

INDIANA WRESTLING RESULTS
By LYNN LICHTY

In the main feature, it was truly a battle of the big boys—the Ox, at 6'5" and 310 pounds, locked horns with big Ernie Ladd, who stands 6'9" and weighed 342 pounds for this contest! Ox kept Ladd out of wrestling for a month by injuring him, so big Ernie had revenge on his mind!

This no disqualification match proved to be a rough one. Ernie is however, now wrestling clean after having been a villain in the past. It was Ernie all the way at first, but the Ox came back—apparently using a foreign object, inside of a bandage on his elbow—Next, Ox's manager, Handsome Johnny Starr, intervened—Ladd appeared to be out and hurt, and next the referee was knocked out of the ring and Ladd was hit with a chair by Starr. The referee missed seeing it and Ladd was counted out since he was outside of the ring and so the unpopular Ox won another victory.

Wilbur Snyder and Pepper Gomez wrestled the Legionaires in a "street fight" type match at Fort Wayne's Memorial Coliseum and emerged victorious although both were bleeding profusely when the smoke cleared away! Snyder and Gomez finally succeeded in tearing the clothes off the Legionaires but it proved to be no easy task. There was no time limit on this feature bout.

The Moose defeate The Ox in a non-title bout when the Ox was counted out—outside the ring that is. The Ox failed to make it back in before the twenty count, after a little over 14 minutes of rugged action.

The team of Mitsu Arakawa and Kim Duk took on Jose Martine and Gibert Gurrerro in the first match of the card and it proved to be interesting. Kim looked awed after Jose applied a hold new to this reporter—a flying ankle head scissors. Duk applied a judo chop and body press to Gurrerro as he came flying off the ropes to win the match for the Orientals.

Crazy Killer Brooks at 243 pounds grappled Clem Turner, who outweighed him by 11 pounds. Brooks jumped from the top rope onto Turner and won the match in a very unpopular victory.

In a wild match, Pretty Boy Bobby Heenan ended up defeating Cowboy Bob Ellis in a most unique manner indeed! To start things rolling, Heenan tried to crush Cowboy's hat before the bell even rang, and Ellis booted him in the posterior knocking him out of the ring. Ellis then crashed Bobby's head into the turnbuckle, but Heenan soon turned the tables and hit the Cowboy's head into a table at ringside and then choked him! Ellis soon came back and used his well-known bulldog headlock on Bobby. However, Killer Kowalski interferred and after a collision, Ellis was counted out by the referee and Heenan won the bout, even though he was down on the mat.

The RING Wrestling OFFICIAL WORLD RATINGS

Ring Wrestling Magazine Ratings are based on performance not only between issues of this publication but upon the overall records of the wrestlers. Performances and evidence of skills are the paramount guides. There's no possibility here of mistaking popularity for technical merit.

MEN	WOMEN	TAG TEAMS
1. BRUNO SAMMARTINO	1. FABULOUS MOOLAH	1. LOUIS CERDAN and TONY PARISI
2. TERRY FUNK	2. SUSAN GREEN	2. SUPERSTAR GRAHAM and IVAN KOLOFF
3. NICK BOCKWINKEL	3. BETTY NICCOLI	3. CHRIS COLT and COUNT DRUMMER
4. BILLY ROBINSON	4. VICKIE WILLIAMS	4. THE BRUISER and CRUSHER
5. DUSTY RHODES	5. SANDY PARKER	5. THE VALIANT BROS
6. VERN GAGNE	6. JEAN ANTONE	6. SENOR X and CLIFF VON BRAUNER
7. JACK BRISCO	7. SUE BRITTIAN	7. THE ROYAL KANGAROOS
8. HARLEY RACE	8. DONNA CHRISTANELLO	8. GREG VALENTINE and GORGEOUS GEORGE JR.
9. SCANDOR AKBAR	9. PRINCESS WAR STAR	9. ANGELO and LANNY POFFO
10. DON MURACO	10. CHI CHI PARIS	10. EL SANTO 1 and 2
11. LORD AL HAYES	11. LUCY DUPREE	11. GREG GAGNE and JIM BRUNZELL
12. DORY FUNK JR.	12. ANNE CASEY	12. THE MORROW BROS
13. KILLER KOWALSKI	13. TONI ROSE	13. ROBERTO SOTO and EL RAYO
14. INOKI	14. BELLE STARR	14. THE MONGOLS
15. THE SHEIK	15. DAISY MAE	15. YASHI FUJI and MR. YAGI
16. BOB ROOP	16. YVONNE WILLIAMS	16. THE CASTILLO BROS.
17. CHAVO GUERRERO	17. DONNA RAY	17. RIP HAWK and ROGER KIRBY
18. JOHNNY ROUGEAU	18. MARYLIN BENDER	18. THE MERCENARIES,
19. TIGER JEET SINGH	19. MARY JANE MULL	19. THE KELLEY TWINS
20. CHRIS MARKOFF	20. ESTELLE MOLINA	20. THE INFERNOS

The Tournament Of Champions

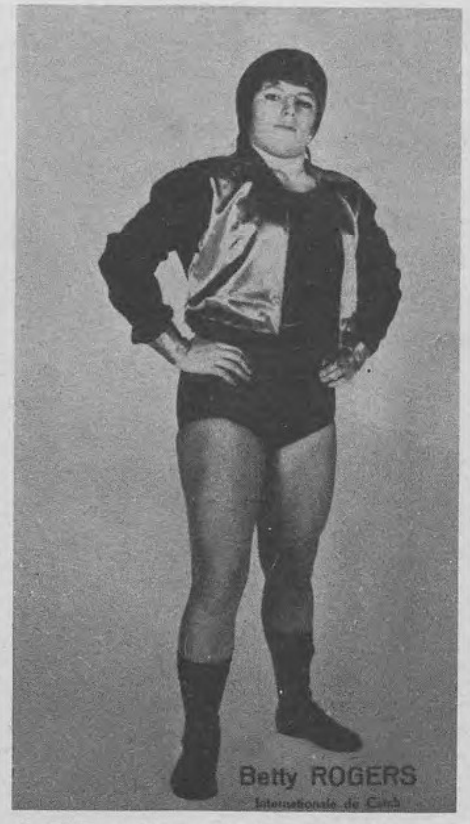
By MICHEL BEZY

WRESTLING among the women in France is reaching new heights in popularity, and over 7000 fans crowded into the arena to see the Mogaro tournament and witness Mildred Van Lloyds, of the United States, defeat Betty Rogers, of France, to capture the European championship.

Among the novices, Betty Dolly of England beat out a field composed of Rose Treret of France, Black Slimon, from the Congo, Chikoutoumi, American Apache, Juliette Lopez, of France, and KK from Germany, to win the novice crown.

(Above) Mildred Van Lloyds, the American girl who has made it in a big way to win European honors. (Below) the vivacious Juliette Lopez, who is rated fourth among Europe's new faces. (Far right) Betty Dolly, England's contribution to the new faces competing on the continent, the champion of the novice division. . .What a Dolly!

(Left) The beautiful and dangerous Martine Prevost, a French girl, rated sixth among Europe's women wrestlers. (Above) A newcomer from France is Suzy LaPlante, who is being touted as a girl to watch. (Right) We see Marcelle Mura of Spain, rated fifth among Europe's elite women, on the receiving end of an elbow smash from Lola Garcia, of Spain, rated third in Europe.



(Left) Rose Treret, the beauty from France, rated number one among the novices in European action—one look and you know she has what it takes. (Above) Betty Rogers, another French girl, is rated second among the women grapplers in Europe. Her rough and tough style endears her to the fans. (Right) K.K., demasked, a German girl with know how and a pleasing style, who is rated second among the newcomers to women wrestling.

Billy Spears sends Doug Somers to the mat with a powerful body slam. Seconds later, Doug seized his opponent's legs and applied a figure four leg lock that ended the match.

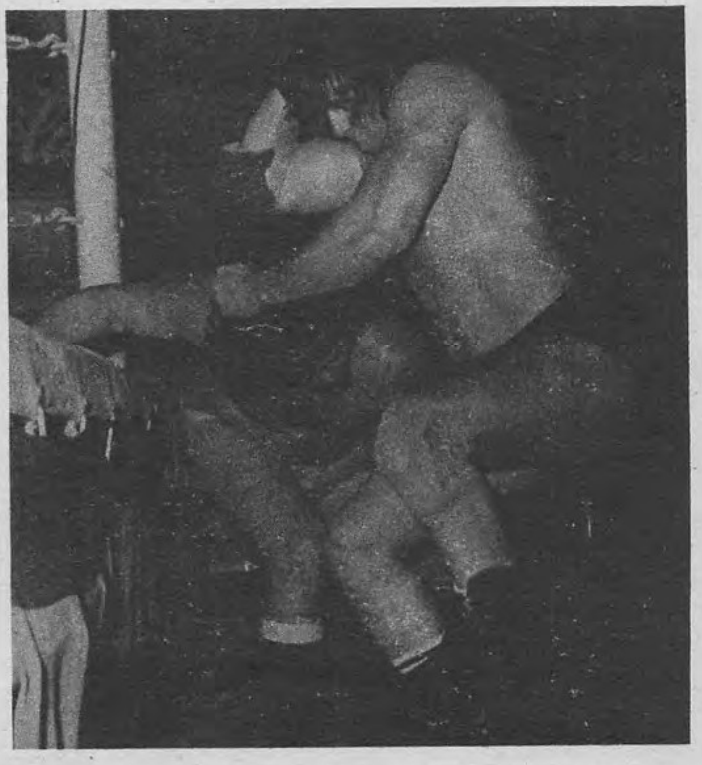
"I Don't Like People" Snarls Doug Somers

By VICKIE GODDARD

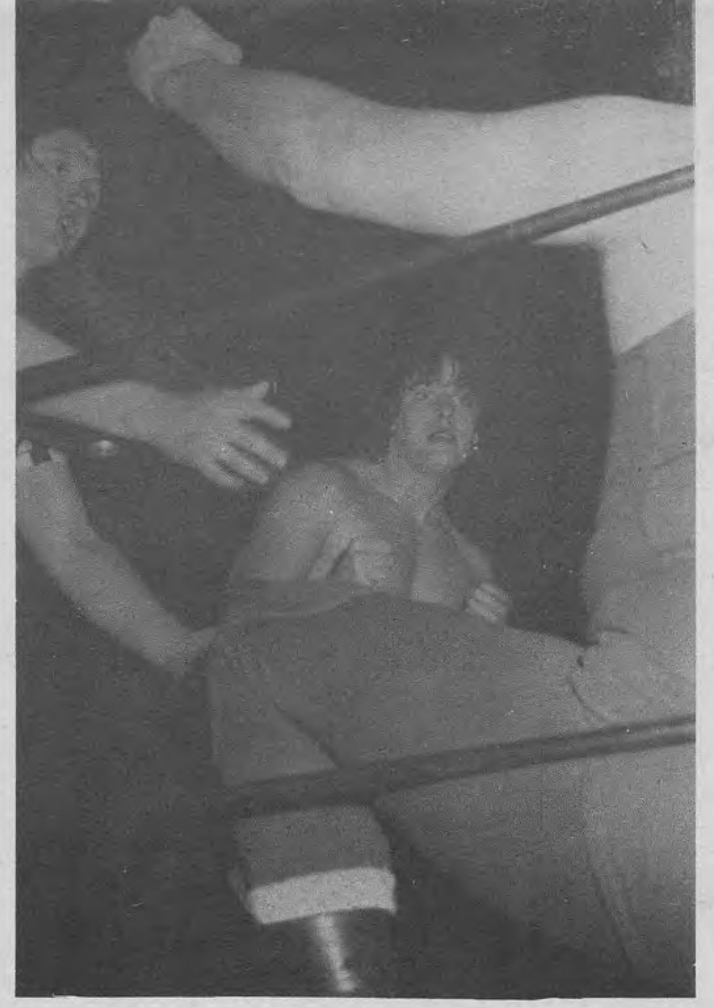
DOUG Somers continued to stomp his opponent, who was lying helpless on the apron of the ring. Futile attempts were made by the referee to stop this malicious behavior. The Hawaiian superstar, Don Muraco, had a look of despair as his head was driven into the nearest turnbuckle, compliments of Doug Somers.

This was a typical evening of work for the twenty-three year old native of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Somers became a wrestler two years ago after he was a referee for a total of five years. He had started out at the young age of eleven, when he took on the part-time job of putting up rings.

For the short two years he has wrestled, Doug has traveled many places. New York, Minnesota, Ohio, Mississippi, North Dakota, Kansas, Texas, North and South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia are only a few of the states in which he has displayed his much talked about and controversial style of wrestling. He has



(Above) Somers gives Steve Keirn a taste of his Atomic Elbow Smash that has won the Minneapolis native many victories. (Left) In a fit of anger during a wrestling match, Doug picks up a chair with which to attack his opponent.



(Left) Joe Tomayo is in a corner trapped by Doug Somers. (Right) Doug literally knows his wrestling inside out. Before he put on his first pair of wrestling tights, he was a top referee in the AWA area for 5 years, and before that a member of the ring set-up crew. (Below) Doug chokes a cornered Steve Keirn.

also toured Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

The versatile young grappler wrestled in high school and then trained with some of the very best athletes in the country today. Harley Race and Larry Hennig (who are former AWA champions), Verne Gagne, Lars Anderson, and Billy Robinson are among them.

Even though Doug Somers is a so called "bad guy," and ninety percent of the time his tactics are questionable, I could see a warmth of friendliness as he spoke of those who seem to dominate his career. "The two men I admire most in wrestling," commented the smug looking competitor, "are the same two men I owe much credit and thanks to for establishing me in my career. Harley Race and Lars Anderson are great men, and there aren't too many wrestlers you can call men."

Roger "Nature Boy" Kirby, Ron Garvin, and Bob Orton, Jr., are only a few that Doug has tag teamed with. He said that Bob Orton, Jr., is probably the best tag team partner he has ever had.

The dark haired villain said his toughest opponents in wrestling thus far have been Mr. Wrestling II, and Bob Orton, Jr., (who he wrestled prior to his change to villain).

When asked, Doug told me exactly why he enjoyed being a "villain" and never hesitated to use the rough, sometimes mercenary, style of wrestling. "I don't like people and I don't really care if they like me or

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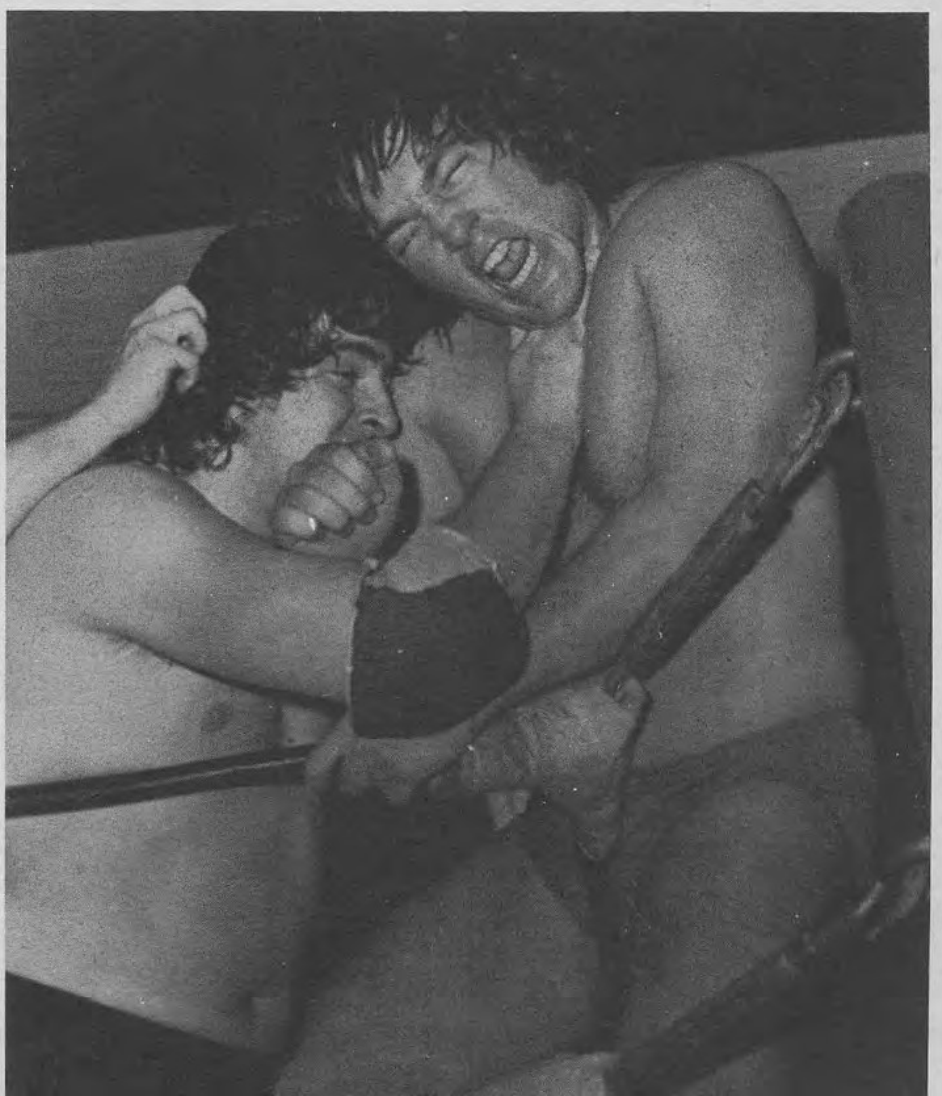

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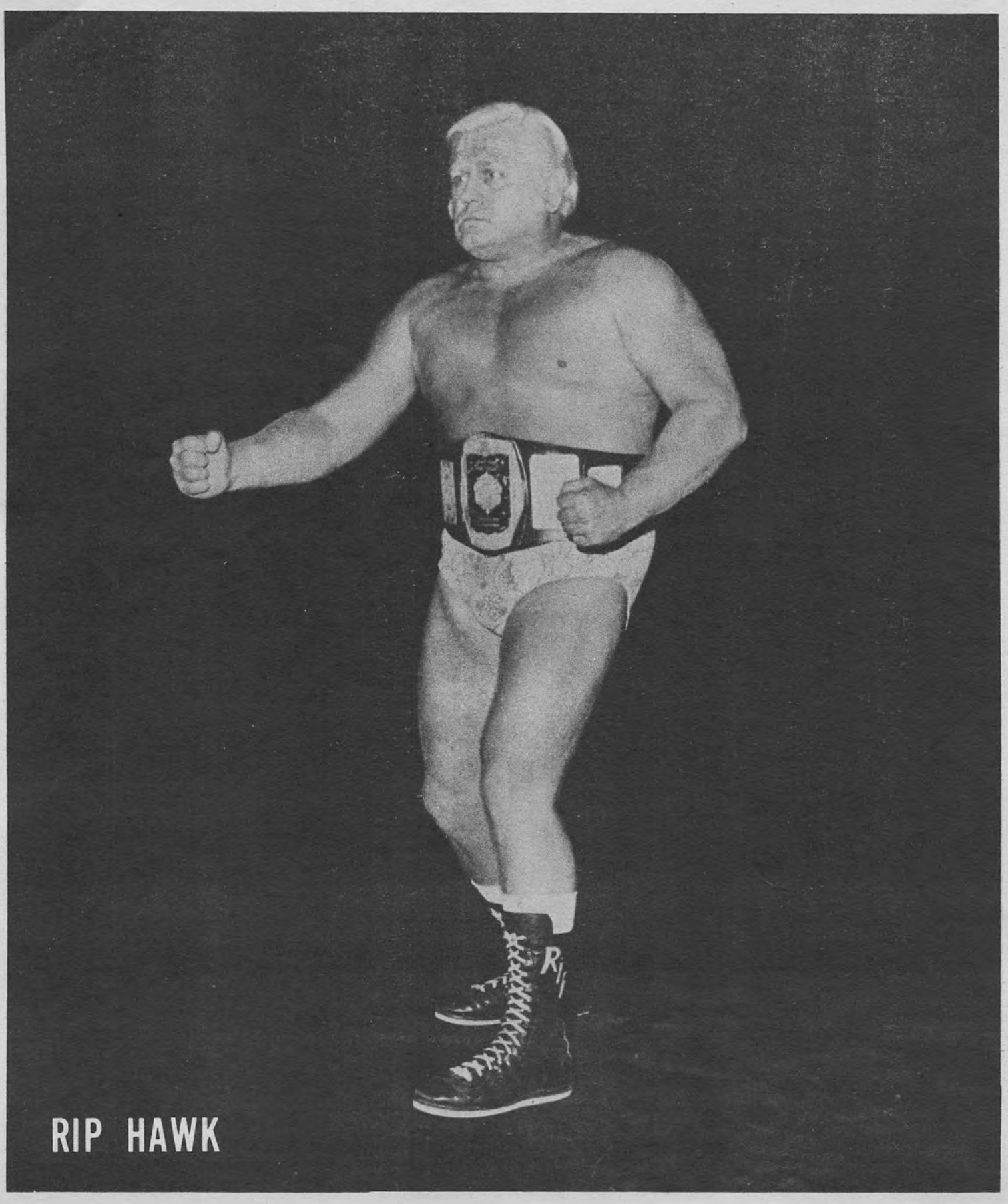

RIP HAWK

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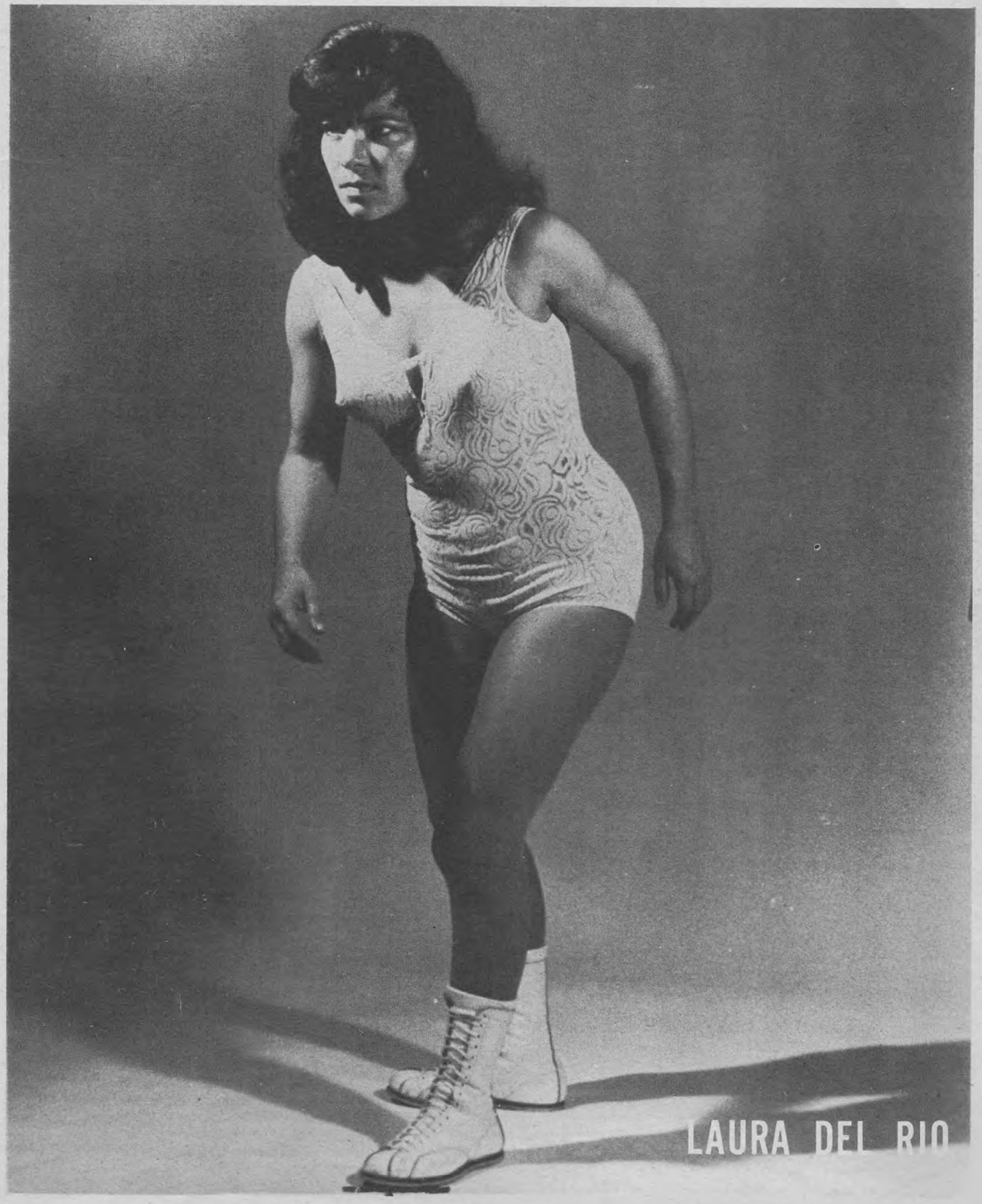


THE GREAT MILDRED BURKE: WRESTLER TURNED TRAINER

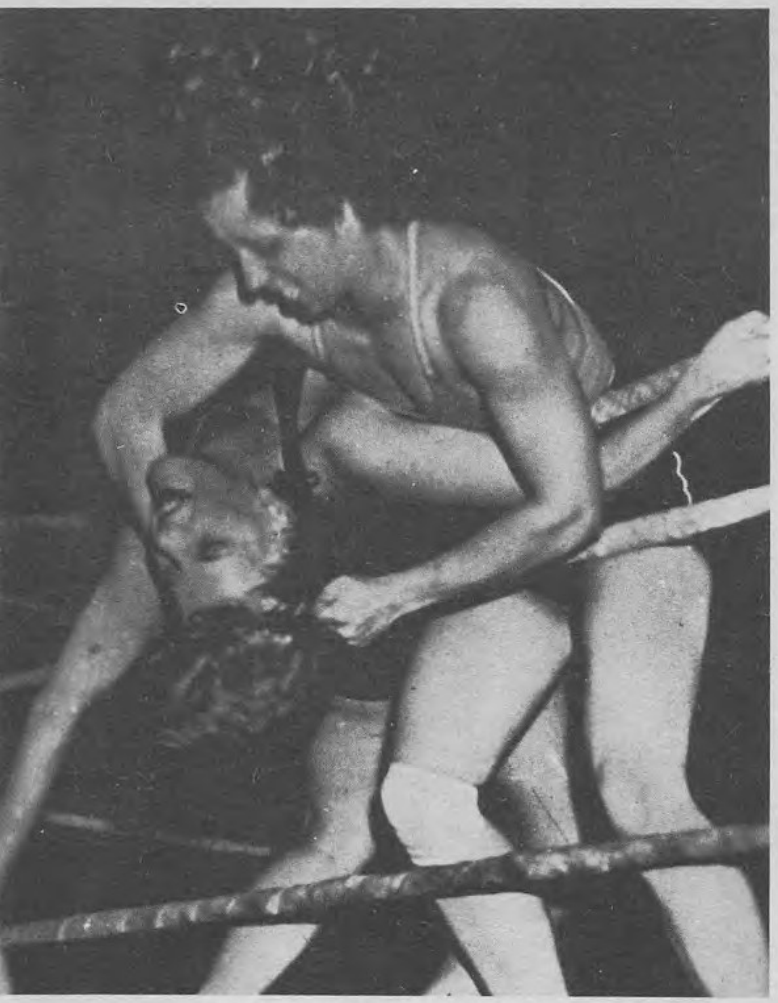
By ELLIOTT J. HAHN

(Above) Mildred Burke, today, goes over a contract with an aspiring future pro wrestler, Gale Gardner. (Below) Al Jolson, famous singer of the 1920's and 1930's sings a song just for Mildred. During her reign as champion, Mildred captured the imagination of the public and packed in crowds wherever she wrestled.

SPORTS fans are always asking each other "whatever happened to so-and-so, that great sports hero of the 1930's?" (or 1940's or 50's, as the case may be). The answer inevitably seems to be that he or she is now toiling in some obscure hamlet, his or her fame unknown to all but a few close fans.

If one asked that question about Mildred Burke, however, the answer would be a far different one, indeed. Perhaps the greatest wrestler, male or female, of all time, Mildred retired in 1957 after a reign of twenty (yes, twenty) years as the Women's World Wrestling Champion. Now, Mildred runs a professional wrestling school for both males and females just outside the city of Los Angeles. Her effort to repay the sport of wrestling for what it gave to her in the way of financial rewards has been a successful one. Not only is her school a famous one, but her name also continues to be one of the brightest in the wrestling world. On a recent trip to Japan as coach for some of her female proteges, for example, she constantly received standing ovations from the Japanese fans.

The sport of professional wrestling in the United States owes much to this surprisingly small woman whose height is 5'2". In the course



Mildred Burke works over Clara Mortensen in the famous match in 1936, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, that made Mildred women's world champion, a title she held until the day she retired in 1957.

Mildred strikes one of her famous poses wearing the championship belt she won in 1936.

Mildred, in Japan, wishes one of her prize pupils, Princess War Star, good luck in her match against a woman from Japan.

of compiling her unbelievable record of over 6,000 straight wins against both male and female wrestlers, Mildred revolutionized the sport of professional women's wrestling. Known as the "mother of professional women's wrestling," she was the dominant figure in the world of wrestling for three decades. When she turned pro, the sport of women's wrestling took place on carnival and circus circuits and burlesque stages. When she ended her glorious career, women wrestlers were universally recognized as legitimate athletes in a professional sport. The last words on her career in wrestling, however, have not yet been written. Mildred is now fighting hard to promote all-girl professional wrestling cards, ones that would involve female stars from Japan and Australia. If her past career is any guide to her chances for success, these cards are inevitable.

This pretty woman of red hair and grey eyes was born in Coffeville, Kansas. She saw her first professional wrestling match in the Depression of the 1930's. At the time, there was little professional wrestling by women in the United States. After watching this match, though, Mildred resolved that she would become a pioneer and blaze the way for women to become part of the sport. Mildred's revolutionary zeal would soon do just that. It is ironic that this small woman with her idea really introduced women's liberation into the world of wrestling.

At the time, Mildred Burke barely weighed 115 pounds. Thus, when she approached promoter Billy Wolfe and told him that she wanted to become a professional wrestler, Wolfe's reaction was to laugh incredulously. For one year, Mildred pestered Wolfe, asking him whenever she saw him when he would let her prove to him that women, as well as men, could wrestle. Finally, her persistence so upset Wolfe that he hired a local male wrestler to wrestle her. Wolfe instructed the young man to throw Mildred around with so much vehemence that she would never dare to approach him again with her crazy idea that a woman could wrestle.

At the time, Mildred had never stepped into a ring. She had no idea how to apply even the simplest of holds. When this match began, the male picked her up and threw her to the mat with much force. As he dropped on her for the pin, however, Mildred somehow flipped him over and pinned him. The furious Wolfe was be-

Titi Paris, the freedom fighter from Algeria, has recently signed a contract with Mildred Burke. Here Titi gives an arm twist to Panama Franco, of New Mexico.

One of the hottest gals in Mildred's stable is Laura Del Rio, right.

RINGTHEBELL.TV on Archive.org

Aggie Henry, left, and Jackie West, right, perhaps future women's champions, raptly listen to their instructor Mildred Burke during a training session.

Two more of Mildred's aspirants, Patti Steger, left, and Yvonne Jennings, right, relax after a workout at Ms. Burke's gym just outside of Los Angeles, California.

side himself in anger; he was so frustrated that he could only spit. He had allowed Mildred into the ring to rough her up so that she would never bother him again. The result had been that she had pinned her opponent. The irate Wolfe ordered his male protege to wrestle her again. This time, however, the male wrestler never went to the attack. Mildred, at the time barely seventeen years old, picked up her opponent, slammed him to the mat, and then pinned him while Wolfe furiously rubbed his eyes in disbelief.

Wolfe was no fool. He realized now that this young girl could indeed be of championship calibre. He began to train her. A problem existed, though, that was to harass her for the first few years of her career. At the time, women wrestlers were few and far between. Of the few then wrestling, most had wrestled only on the burlesque stage and really had no idea of what to do on the mat. Therefore, Mildred decided that she would wrestle men. Again and again, she approached Wolfe with the idea until her persistence finally overwhelmed him. For two summers (in 1935 and 1936), Mildred wrestled in a midwestern carnival, offering any man within twenty pounds of her weight $20 if he could defeat her in ten minutes. Still without any professional training, Mildred wrestled many men who were supremely confident that they could quickly beat her and make an easy $20, a large sum during those days of the Depression. Much to their consternation and surprise, Mildred was never defeated.

The indefatigable Mildred Burke, though, still was not satisfied. Deep within her burned a desire to put the sport of women's wrestling into the headlines, and she still had not done this. She decided that the only way to accomplish this was to wrestle in the main arenas where the biggest of matches were held. She arranged with a Midwestern promoter that she could wrestle in the main arena in Bethany, Missouri, if she got herself an opponent. The year was 1936 and Mildred was about to put woman wrestling in the sports pages headlines.

Mildred contracted to fight a local male wrestler in the Bethany arena. When the first publicity notices went out, the match sold out in 6 hours, even though this was during the worst days of the Depression. In fact, this match was to set an attendance record at the Bethany Arena that still has never been broken. Just before the start of the match, however, Mildred's opponent decided not to show up. This news so upset the large crowd that a minor riot ensued. Finally, to placate the crowd, the police arrested Mildred's opponent and informed him that he would spend time in the local jail unless he reconsidered his earlier decision and decide to wrestle Mildred. Faced with this choice, the 140-pounder decided to wrestle the 115-pound woman. In eight minutes the match was history. To the roars of delight of the huge crowd, Mildred pinned her male

(Continued on page 61)

EUROPE'S CHAMPION, ARIS PETROPOULOS

By S. A. BONELLO

PRESENTLY on tour to a number of Mediterranean countries is the holder of a version of the European Heavyweight Title, Aris Petropoulos, of Greece, who has lately been achieving successes in different countries.

Petropoulos was recently in the Republic of Malta where he was expected to defend his title against a British wrestler who failed to arrive from the United Kingdom. The consequence was that the title fight had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour to the dual disappointment of Aris Petropoulos and the Maltese wrestling fans who on their part were looking forward to witnessing a European championship match.

Aris Petropoulos was born on the Greek island of Corfu in 1947, and started to wrestle as an amateur when he was only 12 years old. As an amateur he was quite a success as a greco-roman wrestler. Petropoulos won his first amateur title when he became Balkan Champion in the middleweight category in 1962 in Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia). The following year he successfully defended his title in the Romanian city of Costanza.

In 1967 he became champion of Greece in both greco-roman and free-style in the Light Heavyweight category, and the following year he added the Greek Naval greco-roman title in the same weight class while undergoing national service. Petropoulos was called to represent his country in 1966 against Morocco in Casablanca in a greco-roman international match.

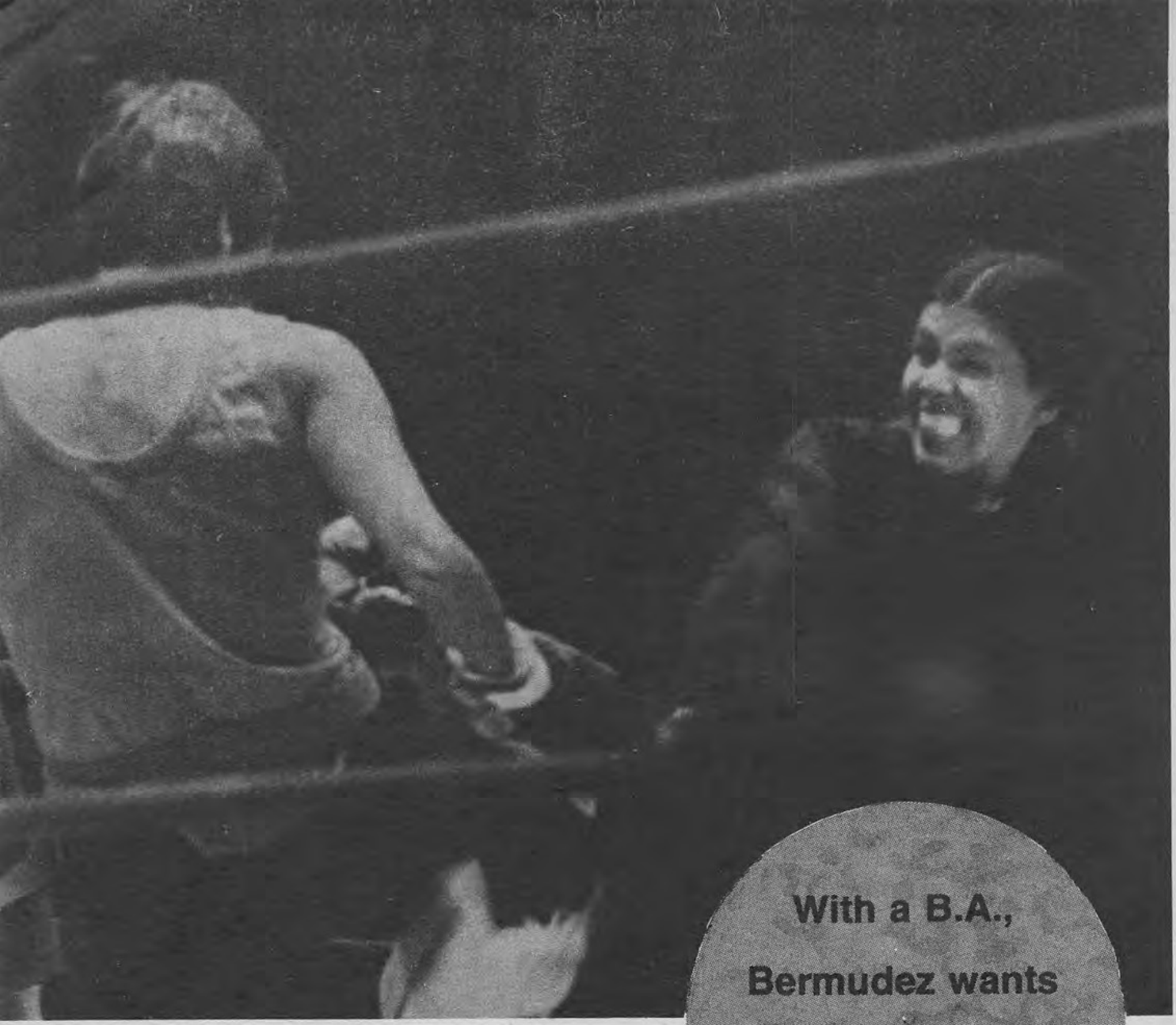
In 1969 Petropoulos turned professional. He was 22 years old and was determined to make pro wrestling his living. He set his mind to see the world while practicing wrestling, which was to become his profession.

So far he has toured four continents wrestling in Australia, South Africa, Kartoum, East Germany, Kuwait, Tokyo and, of course, in Greece. In Tokyo alone he wrestled for a period of two months. However, he has still to wrestle in the United States and Canada. His ambition is to wrestle at Madison Square Garden, which he considers the mecca of professional wrestling.

In six years of professional wrestling he had about 150 fights of which he won about 85 percent. These include a tag match against Attilio Douns and Mustafa Ali when he had

(Continued on page 63)

Aris Petropoulos, who was born on the Greek island of Corfu, and has held a version of the European heavyweight title since 1972, executes a drop kick against Andrew Harris during the Greek's tour of Australia. Aris sees a bout in New York's Madison Square Garden as an immediate goal.



Marion Bermudez throws a kick at Evelyn Perez. Inexperienced, short on weight, and hampered by her equally inexperienced seconds, Perez showed her greatest asset—heart.

With a B.A., Bermudez wants only to become a good fighter.

Watch Out For Pro Karate's Marion Bermudez

By VALERIE EADS

A true egalitarian, Bermudez will slug the back of any head she gets in the ring. Hint. . .don't turn your back on her.

Marion Bermudez's position as a fighter is secure. She is now able to lose occasionally without causing any speculation that she is going to retire, at least from competing against men. At the 1975 (7th Annual) Rocky Mountain Championships she lost to Ken Owens, who landed a ridge hand blow to the head in sudden-death overtime to take the bout. A ridge hand blow is struck with the inside edge of the hand. He scored a point, not a knockdown.

To give some idea as to how far Bermudez has progressed, only a year ago she was denied her trophy in kata (forms) because of her sex. At about the same time, instructors of the men she was competing against in kumite (fighting) were warning her instructor that the boys were going to begin to fight for real. By now it is an accepted fact that anyone who gets out on the floor or into the ring with Bermudez had better be prepared to fight for real.

Prior to 1974, coverage of women in karate tournaments had been sporadic at best. Often a few sentences about the women seemed to be tacked on to fill up some space, and if there weren't any extra space, the women were dumped into a list of winners at the tail end of the write-up. The women's divisions still don't get equal coverage, but things are looking up as writers begin to realize that something may be going on "over there" where the women are. One of the events that woke up the world to women's free fighting was the last fight that Bermudez lost to another woman: Mikie Rowe, ten years older than Marion and the mother of two, fought with a broken foot and a broken nose and won. This was supposed to be a "tag" tournament. The injuries were the result of accidental contact.

Even though women's karate was beginning to attract some attention within karate itself, a 1974 roundup of women's karate made no mention of Marion Bermudez. The in-group knew her as an unusually scrappy woman green belt (intermediate student) and that was about it. By 1975 she had had advanced to brown belt and became overnight one of the media hypes of the decade.

On March 7, 1975, Marion Bermudez fought in the Arizona Golden Gloves. She fought two matches, losing the second one when the ref decided she had been hit too hard. She won the first match over Eduardo Porras by a decision. Although her entry into the Golden Gloves was a history-making first time event, the martial arts magazines and promoters picked it up and began to call her a Golden Gloves champion!

Bermudez herself is a little more realistic about the whole thing. She says she did some boxing to increase her knowledge of fighting skills in general. Her teacher, Fred Stille, was especially interested in getting her more accustomed to fighting in close. Karate stylists tend to fight further apart.

Stille also said that the Golden Gloves and AAU officials let her compete because they had seen her work out and knew she was capable. The newspapers said they let her enter because they were afraid of a lawsuit. A women's sports magazine said that the reason was because she had promised *not* to sue anybody even if she were barred.

Whatever the behind-the-scenes maneuvers were, she did get in the ring and she did fight. The poor guy she beat has had his face, with her fist in it, plastered across every karate magazine in the country. They forget about her second match against Fernando Granillo, who eventually won the division. The general idea was that beating a woman was no big deal, but losing to her was front page news.

That is no longer true. Bermudez has now licked enough guys her own size that it is no longer a big deal and reporters are beginning to concentrate on how she does it. On May 10, 1975, she did it by outlasting her opponent, Anthony Suarez. Suarez was 17, a new black belt and 122 pounds. Bermudez, at 23, had considerably more savvy than her opponent even though he was nominally her senior in karate.

Suarez came blasting out of his corner and landed Bermudez on her rump in the middle of the first round. The problem was that she stayed there about half a second, took the mandatory 8-count on her feet, and picked up the fight where it left off. Suarez later admitted that he didn't believe it when Bermudez jumped back to her feet immediately. He had landed his best punch cleanly to the face and it didn't hurt.

In round two, Bermudez was as fresh as she was in round one. Suarez was dragging. For the last 15-20 seconds of the round all he

The clinch will never be a popular tactic in karate, as Anthony Suarez, on the receiving end of the shuto, will tell you. Bermudez beat him 83-79.

Round one—Bermudez and Suarez trade punches. Suarez scored a knockdown against his opponent, but it kept her off her feet for less than a second.

Round two—Burned out from round one, Suarez spent much of the round clinching "Come back and fight like a woman!"

could do was clinch to keep from being pounded into the ring. An inexperienced fighter with equally young and inexperienced corner men, he had run himself out too fast and realized it too late. The impressive round one knockdown was wiped out on the scorecards by the dismal defensive clinching in round two.

On the same card that night was the women's championship match. Bermudez and her teacher acted as seconds to Beth Bussey, who took a terrible licking from Fay Schreibman. It was Schreibman's first and last professional fight. As a matter of fact, she had never fought in public before, but her teacher was no novice. He had learned his trade in Okinawa where they never got around to pulling the punches. He also had a different idea of what were "pure karate techniques" than most Americans have. He considered a knockout match to be a duel and he trained his student accordingly. The bout was a little too realistic for most of the men, and the rules have since been spelled out more carefully. Bermudez was the obvious choice as the next contender, but by that time Schreibman decided to get out of the fight game.

Aaron Banks is the only promoter in pro karate to lay out money for women. At times he must wonder whether or not it's worth the trouble. Each time a women's match is scheduled there is a grand scramble to find a competitor. Schreibman had been a last-minute choice, and the same was true when the second women's title bout was scheduled with Bermudez signed as one of the challengers.

The first choice had been Charlotte Hoffman, of Las Vegas. Her credentials were a black belt and an earlier victory over Bermudez. She changed her mind after fliers had already been posted. Then Nancy Lee Cerio, of Providence, Rhode Island, accepted. A new set of fliers was printed and posted around New York. Then Cerio took a shot to the head from a sparring partner and suffered a concussion which still gives her sudden headaches. Nick Cerio, her husband and instructor, has said that she will not fight again.

With a barely a week to go until fight time, a woman named Susan Wister was signed and released from the contract a day later. She had changed her mind. By now Aaron Banks was desparately looking for a woman to fight Bermudez.

The eventual opponent was Evelyn Perez, who was signed less than a week before the fight. If guts alone could make a champion, Perez would have been one. Unfortunately, it only works that way in the movies, and Perez took almost as much of a beating as Beth Bussey had taken. Like Suarez she was inexperienced as a fighter and her seconds had no more idea of what they were sup-

(Continued on page 52)

KEYSTONE, BUCKEYE AND MOUNTAIN STATE ACTION

By HENRY KLIMKOWSKI

▲BARNESBORO, PA. — At Northern Cambria County High School, promoter Gene Dargan signed Wladek Ivan Putski, "Polish Power" personified, to battle 307-pound Buggsie "The Brute" McGraw! A furious exchange of bearhugs, kicks, and fisticuffs eventually carried the battle to the ring apron. The San Francisco prison guard battered Ivan with a barrage of blows, causing the Pole to sag lifeless over the top rope. Buggsie shoved Putski over the ropes back into the squared circle in order to continue the punishment. However, in so doing, McGraw enabled Wladek to beat the ten-count of referee Emil Britko, leaving himself to be counted out of the ring at 11:22!!!

Ivan Koloff, the former W.W.W.F. world's champion, had his hands full with the high-flying antics of Manuel Soto. Unfortunately, a flying bodyblock endeavor of the gazelle was off target, resulting in a terrible collision into a turnbuckle for Manny. The Russian climbed to the top turnbuckle and devastated the Cuban with his "Atomic" kneedrop to the midsection. Koloff's victory pin was a mere formality at 10:58!

In preliminaries: Hangman Jim Grabmire and Pete Sanchez brawled twenty minutes to a stalemate. Sgt. Frank Holtz' one-two combo, a backdrop followed by an "Atomic" elbow drop, spelled P-I-N for Frank "The Big D" Durso. Jumpin' Johnny DeFazio vanquished The Red Demon with a reverse cradle after 13:21.

▲RAVENNA, OHIO — The spectacular new organization, Professional Promotions Inc., invaded the National Guard Armory in Ravenna, which is less than fifteen miles from Akron, an N.W.A. stronghold.

Johnny Jackson put his Central heavyweight title on the line against the challenge of The North American Madman, Bad Billy Coleman. The psycho once again brought his controversial chains to the ring battlefield, but ref Ken Kibbutz managed somehow to persuade Madman to place them over a turnbuckle and out of the way. However, when the fast-flying fists of Jackson split open the forehead of Madman at the 27-minute mark, the fruitcake used the links to beat young Johnny to a black-and-blue pulp. When Rubber Man Guy and Billy E. came to the rescue, Coleman gave them the same treatment. Kibbutz disqualified Madman and awarded the bout to Jackson, who had to be carried to the dressing room.

Billy E. and Cowboy Bob Brothers met in a Texas Death Grudge Match in which the loser would have to be counted out, either on the mat or out of the ring! The cowpoke was accompanied by a new manager, Mr. Nold, due to the fact that Brothers' former mentor, Zoltan the Great, had his license to manage the native of Dallas revoked by Professional Promotions for causing a near riot in Moundsville, W. Va. Mr. Nold constantly distracted, tongue-lashed, belted, and tackled Bill from the ringside area. Eventually Mr. E. could take no more and chased Nold to the dressing room! Ref Kibbutz counted Billy E. out of the ring after 6:30!!!

Cowboy Bob Brothers and Lumberjack Luke faced Billy E. and Rubber Man Guy in a tag-team riot! The woodsman stunned Rubber Man coming off the ropes with his "Flying Ax" double-forearm blow and then crushed him with the big-splash to take the first fall after twelve minutes. Rubber Man gained quick revenge in the second frame, putting Luke under the ether with a sleeper hold at 6:30. With all participants slugging it out simultaneously in mid-ring, ref Ken Kibbutz, unable to regain order, disqualified both tandems after six minutes of the final fall!!!

In the opener, Rubber Man Guy, often called "The Man of a Thousand Holds," clamped a version of the reverse surfboard on Don Reo who submitted to the painful grip at the 8-minute mark!!!

▲STEUBENVILLE, OHIO — Capt. Lou Albano accompanied his protege Buggsie McGraw to the St. John Arena for his battle with Wladek Ivan Putski. The wild captain wasted little time before getting involved in the action. After a mid-ring collision, Buggsie sagged in the ropes while Putski was lying stunned on the mat. Albano handed McGraw a chair which was immediately crashed over the Pole's cranium. Lou and Buggsie proceeded to stomp away at Ivan, until the undefeated muscleman went berserk and chased his attackers to the dressing room. In the meantime, referee Izzie Moidel declared Putski the winner via disqualification at 8:15!!!

In the tag-team semi-final, Sgt. Frank Holtz and Jumpin' Johnny DeFazio met the "Killer Duo" of The Executioner and Hangman Jim Grabmire! In the opening fall, Executioner clamped a headlock on DeFazio, ran him across the ring headfirst into Grabmire's waiting knee, and then fell upon the stunned Italian for the pin after eleven minutes. The masked man's attempt at the same maneuver sadly backfired in the second fall, as DeFazio turned the tables at the last instant and pinned Ex at 4:56. A possum-playing Hangman greeted Holtz' backdrop attempt with a kick to the throat and then pinned the mighty policeman at 9:49 to win the deciding fall!!!

In preliminaries: Ivan Koloff crushed the hapless Pete Sanchez with his "Atomic" kneedrop from the top turnbuckle for an easy pinfall triumph in nine minutes. Manuel Soto held the evil Baron Mikel Scicluna to a 20-minute draw in the surprise of the evening.

▲PITTSBURGH, PA. — Baron Mikel Scicluna, in dire straits, pilfered Irish Pat Barrett's lucky charm from a corner ringpost, but the native of Eire confiscated it and chased the evil nobleman from the squared circle. Referee Paddy Grimes' decision of "no contest" at 10:45 was protested with a mid-ring sit-down by Barrett, but to no avail.

Superstar Billy Graham foiled Pete Sanchez' attempt to whip him into a turnbuckle by reversing the maneuver. The Puerto Rican bounced off the turnbuckle into the waiting arms of Graham, who bearhugged Pete into submission at 9:42 for a sensational debut victory!!!

Dr. Bill Miller, having wrestled clean in the Pittsburgh area since 1969, shocked the fans with continual rule-breaking in his match with Johnny DeFazio! The Italian, outweighed by 65 pounds, provided yet another surprise, holding the veterinarian to a 20-minute draw!!!

Louis Cerdan and Tony Parisi, having won the W.W.W.F. world's tag-team title from The Black Jacks just three days earlier in Philadelphia, had little trouble with Hangman Jim Grabmire and Frank Durso! Parisi dove from the top turnbuckle for a derriere-first landing on the chest of Durso for the one-fall victory at 9:50!!!

In the opener, Sgt. Frank Holtz greeted The Red Menace with a double-kick to the face followed by his famous "Atomic" elbow drop for yet another pinfall victory for the popular cop after 8:14!!!

▲MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. — Central champion Johnny Jackson, tired of The North American Madman's frequent use of chains in previous encounters, challenged the peabrain to a Chain Match! The mental patient was accompanied to the ring by his new masked manager, Zoltan the Great of Helsinki, Finland. Madman and Jackson each had one end of the chain fastened to an ankle! Following agonizing minutes of bashing and choking each other with the chain, it was a miracle that neither wrestler had perished. Finally, Johnny wrapped the links around his fist for a king-sized steel boxing glove and pounded the psycho's forehead into a mass of blood. Zoltan continually wiped the gore from Madman's menacing face with toilet paper. The zany Finn eventually ran out of the paper and then threw a towel into the ring, ordering ref Jim Watson to stop the bout due to the excessive bleeding! Jackson retained the Central belt on a T.K.O. at the 23-minute mark!!!

Cowboy Bob Brothers grappled Rubber Man Guy in the semi-final attraction! Mr. Nold, manager of the cowpoke, continually interfered in the bout, leaving Guy little chance of winning. Billy E. Rubber Man's frequent tag partner, stormed onto the scene and chased Nold to the dressing room. Without his riot-stirring sidekick, Brothers lost confidence in himself, ran to the dressing room in terror, and was counted out of the ring after nine minutes!!!

Ref Mike "The Sugar Bear" Brown's biased refereeing caused a near riot in the tandem bout feature. The 300-pound Sugar Bear physically helped the team of Cowboy Bob Brothers and The Masked Hangman throughout their clash with Rubber Man Guy and Billy E. Johnny Jackson eventually stormed into the squared circle and beat the cheating Sugar Bear to a pulp. Mr. Brown disqualified E and Guy at the 23-minute mark for outside interference!!!

In the opener, The Masked Hangman hid a foreign object in his mask and headbutted Smilin' Jim Watson into dreamland after eight minutes!!!

▲DOVER, OHIO — Promoter Vince Risko imported "The Eighth Wonder of the World," Andre the Giant, into "The Buckeye State" to team with Mexican sensation El Bracero against The Islanders, Alofa and Sika Anoai, for the N.W.A. world's tag-team championship! The Samoans centered their attack on Bracero for their brutality had little effect on the man from the French Alps. Alofa and Sika ran from the squared circle whenever Andre entered the action. In desperation, Sika crashed a steel chair over Bracero's head. The Giant went berserk, smashing both Islanders with chairs and then burying them in a pile of seats. The Anoai Brothers, despite being disqualified, retained the tag belts!!!

In the remaining battles: Kurt Von Brauner's flying double-forearm smash from a corner ringpost leveled Michael Angelo for a three-count at 24:07. Bulldog Don Kent, having wrapped a chain around his fist, dealt the charging Lou Klein a pop to the chops, resulting in a pin at the 12-minute mark. Alofa Anoai and El Bracero battled to a 20-minute draw.

▲NEW CASTLE, PA. — New Castle High School and promoter Gene Dargan presented a great card, featuring Spiros Arion and Dom DeNucci in the headline event! "The Golden Greek" continually choked Dom with a foreign object, before throwing the Italian over the top rope to the gymnasium floor. Spiros grabbed DeNucci by the hair and ran him across the court face-first into a brick wall. Dominic went berserk, grabbing a chair which was used to smash and poke the villain. DeNucci then chased Arion to the dressing room, leaving ref Bucky Palermo no other choice but to disqualify both wrestlers!!!

Superstar Billy Graham scored a tremendous victory over Irish Pat Barrett! The multi-muscled blond whipped Pat to the ropes to escape from a headlock and proceeded to bearhug the Irishman into submission on the rebound! Superstar appeared to be digging some type of foreign object into Barrett during the application.

The evil Baron Mikel Scicluna ducked under a flying shoulder block attempt by Manuel Soto, causing the acrobat to crash a ringpost head-on. "The Maltese Falcon" fell upon the unconscious Soto for the winning pin at 15:30!

In ladies' tag action, Susan Green and Sheila Shepphard were given a shot at the women's world tag-team title held by Toni Rose and Donna Christanello. In the first fall, a possum-playing Green rolled aside to avoid a big-splash endeavor from the top turnbuckle by Rose, who crashed into the canvas as a result. The tall Texas easily pinned Toni at 11:30! Christanello reversed a rollover cradle try by Shepphard, pinning Sheila at 5:31 to even the match! The champions pulled a streetfight tactic on ref Palermo in the final stanza. As Donna knelt behind the angry arbiter, Rose shoved Bucko to the mat. Green and Shepphard were awarded the victory, though not the belts, via disqualification!!!

The Red Demon's attempt to bulldog the head of Mike Paidousis into a corner turnbuckle sadly backfired. The masked devil ended up taking the blow and was rolled into a reverse cradle by Paidousis!

▲PITTSBURGH, PA. — W.W.W.F. champion Brunto Sammartino and Dom DeNucci, the dominant tag-team in "The Steel City" for many years, faced arch villains Spiros Arion and Superstar Billy Graham in the main-event at the Civic Arena! As DeNucci was preoccupied with stomping Superstar from the squared circle, Spiros dealt the Italian a low blow from the rear. Arion's internationally-famous "atomic drop" to the base of the spine felled Dominic for an easy pin at 19:42! The Venetian tore into "The Golden Greek" in the second frame and eventually weakened Arion with an airplane-spin for the retaliatory pin after 5:19! The fan-favorites took advantage of the staggering Spiros from the outset of the deciding fall. Bruno crushed the breath from Arion with a bearhug and then bodyslammed his limp body to the mat. The champ fell upon the Greek for a pin attempt but, before the referees could toll the three-count, Superstar dove from the top turnbuckle for a kneedrop into Bruno's back. Arion crawled over to his corner for a "legal" tag to Graham, who elbow-dropped and then pinned Sammartino for the victory at 3:26!!!

In the semi-final, the evil Baron Mikel Scicluna and Irish Pat Barrett met in a wild grudge match! A desperate Scicluna once again took Barrett's lucky charm and smashed the Irishman twice. Pat swiped the weapon and returned the Baron's favors. Barrett tore into the native of Malta and then applied a headlock. The Mediterranean madman threw Pat off into the ropes, and the two collided on the rebound, flattening Scicluna on the mat and sending Barrett through the ropes to the arena floor. Ref Buck McTiernan was forced to count Barrett out of the ring at 14:45!!!

Toni Rose and Donna Christanello's world's distaff tag-team championship was up for grabs against Susan Green and Sheila Shepphard! Rose's neckbreaker stunned Susan for an opening fall pin at 4:35! Miss Green foiled the encore neckbreaker aspirations of Toni in the second stanza with a reverse full-nelson and backslide cradle pin in a mere 1:15! Christanello copped the rubber frame by elbow-dropping and pinning Shepphard after 6:33!!!

In other events: Hangman Jim Grabmire gave Manny Soto a bodyslam and cover in 10:10. The Executioner sidestepped the flying headbutt try of Sgt. Frank Holtz, who collided with the ringpost and was easily pinned by the cowled scalawag at 7:11. Mike Paidousis continually avoided Johnny DeFazzio for twenty minutes, forcing the Italian steelworker to settle for a draw verdict.

▲SALEM, OHIO — Promoters Wayne "The Giant" Oberton and Bailey Barnes put together an action-packed outdoor card at the Ponderosa Park.

Jimmy Banks, in his last successful defense of the Central Heavyweight Championship, met the chain-wielding North American Madman, Bad Billy Coleman, in a Texas Death Match which could only be won on a submission. The 300-pound Banks entered the squared circle with a towel which he wrapped around Madman's windpipe. The psycho retaliated by twisting his chain around Banks' neck for several minutes, until Jimmy escaped by rolling from the ring. The champ picked up gravel from the ground and threw it into Madman's face. Banks recovered his towel and nearly strangled his foe into unconsciousness. Jimmy elbow-dropped Madman, but he missed an encore endeavor when the nut rolled aside. Madman grabbed his chain, beating Banks four times with the links, driving him from the ring. When Madman began digging a foreign object into his head, Banks rolled again to the ringside area. Jimmy blinded the psycho with another handful of gravel and dug his teeth into Madman's forehead, drawing a stream of blood. Madman then tunneled into Banks' skull with his sharp object to split Jimmy wide open. The two clawed and scratched away at each other's wounds for several more minutes before referee Jimmy Watson stopped the match at 19:07, fearing that someone might bleed to death!!!

The semi-final bout was an 8-Man over-the-top-rope Battle Royal with a $1,000 first prize. Each participant paid a $100 entry fee, while the promoters added another $200 to the purse. The N.A. Madman, licking his wounds in the dressing room, was the only wrestler to bypass this event. The first six wrestlers were eliminated within three minutes, leaving only arch-enemies Jimmy Banks and Bob Shafer. Jimmy had complete control of the situation until he allowed Bob to lure him into a fingerlock test of strength. Shafer kicked Banks in the chest, elbow-smashed him five times, and then dropkicked Jimmy over the top rope to take the winner's loot. ORDER OF FINISH: 1) Shafer, 2) Banks, 3) Flowers, 4) Von Marx (accompanied by manager Zoltan the Great), 5) Red Cloud, 6) Brothers, 7) Lee, 8) Billy E.

Chief Don Red Cloud, a genuine Cherokee Indian, and blond-bomber Bob Shafer whipped the barefoot, bell-bottom clad Peace Brothers of Hollywood, Bobby Brothers and Billy E in the feature tag-team riot! The Chief and Billy were involved in a fearful collision in the middle of the ring, knocking both men unconscious. Shafer threw the limp body of Red Cloud upon Billy for the pin at 14:06.

In other scraps: Bob Shafer stunned Rubber Man Guy Flowers, the man of a thousand holds, with numerous shoulder-blocks and knees to the midsection before finishing him off with a suplex slam and elbow drop for the concluding cover at 13:45. Ronnie Lee, having dazzled Otto Von Marx with a trio of flying dropkicks, whipped the Teuton to the ropes for a sleeper hold which put Otto under the ether at 6:34.

▲If you desire more detailed reports on matches such as those above, subscribe to THREE RIVERS WRESTLING. T.R.W. deals with wrestling in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia as well as other areas. The bulletins average 20 pages in length. Send 75¢ for one issue or $3.50 for a five-issue subscription to: THREE RIVERS WRESTLING ASSOCIATION, 434 Ohio Avenue, Glassport, Pa. 15045.

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JUST ASK RING WRESTLING

By TOM BURKE

WELCOME to the most authoritative question and answer column in the wrestling media. The RING has been following the mat sport since 1935 when it first printed pages in its monthly boxing magazine.

Q. Is the United States Tag Team Championship still in existence?

J. Henderson
Chicago, Ill.

A. *Yes, the U.S. Tag Team Championship is still around and at the time this magazine is going to print the team of Gorgeous George Jr. and Greg Valentine holds the title.*

Q. Is it true that Ronnie Dupree died?

W. Pratt
Lynn, Mass.

A. *Ronnie Dupree died in Tacoma, Washington on October 17th, 1975. Ron started his wrestling career in Virginia in 1958 under the Virginia Wrestling Promotions. He held the state tag team championship with Ripper Roy Collins. In 1960 Ronnie went to New England and wrestled for promoter Tony Santos. While in New England he became one of the all time favorites in the six state area as well as in Eastern Canada. In May of 1964 Dupree took part in a tournament in Mexico City and won the recognition of various promotoers as the World Junior Heavyweight Champion. Then in 1966 Ron Dupree and Chris Colt teamed together and became the Hell's Angels. They defeated the Fabulous Kangaroos in Detroit, Michigan for the tag team championship. In the last nine years Ron had been active as a manager with Chris Colt and also as Colt's partner many times. In May of 1975 Ronnie suffered a heart attack while wrestling in Arizona. After his recovery he obtained a position as the publicity director for Super Star Championship Wrestling in the Pacific Northwest. On the fatal evening of the 17th of October Ronnie was the ring announcer in Tacoma, Washington and after he finished announcing the first match he collapsed. He died before he reached the hospital. The ironic part of the tragic incident is that one of the participants of the opening matches was his long time friend, Ripper Collins.*

Q. What ever happened to Pampero Firpo?

B. Burke
San Diego, Calif.

A. *Pampero Firpo is wrestling in the AWA territory at this writing.*

Q. How many times did Buddy Rogers claim the world title?

G. Ernst
Brooklyn, NY

The late Ronnie Dupree as he looked as Golden Boy Dupree in the late 50's (left) and shortly before his death (above).

A. *Buddy Rogers first won the NWA title claim in Chicago, Ill., on June 30, 1961, when he defeated Pat O'Connor. In 1963 the World Wide Wrestling Federation was organized. The WWWF disputed the victory of Lou Thesz over Buddy Rogers in Toronto, Canada (January 24th, 1963). The WWWF continued to recognized Rogers as Champion.*

Q. Has Chris Markoff retired from wrestling?

T. Carlson
Dallas, Tx

A. *Chris Markoff is back in the wrestling business and is doing quite well in Detroit, Michigan, at this writing. He has changed his style and is one of the most popular mat men in Motor City.*

Q. How long has Fabulous Moolah been wrestling?

D. Rondeau
Worcester, Mass.

A. *The Fabulous One has been wrestling for over twenty years and continues to show the girls why she is still around.*

Q. Who don't I see Sonny Myers any more?

D. McLarson
St. Joe, Mo.

A. *Sonny Myers only wrestles during the winter months now. In the spring, summer and fall he keeps busy with his Sonny Myers Shows. Myers runs a carnival and travels around the country with his various amusements for state fairs and various expositions. When the fair season is over he puts on his wrestling gear and gets back into the grunt and groan business.*

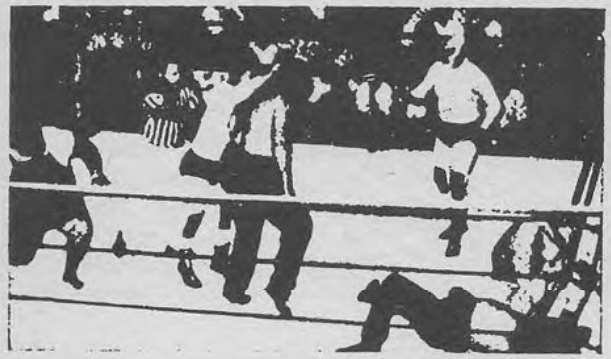
Q. Was Bob Roop an Olympic Gold Medal winner?

S. Ogden
Miami, Fla.

(Continued on page 57)

Any reader that would like to have questions answered in this column are invited to send me their questions. If a personal reply is wanted, please include a stamped self addressed envelope. All correspondence should be sent directly to me care of Ring Wrestling, 120 W 31st St., New York, New York 10001.

The RING WRESTLING



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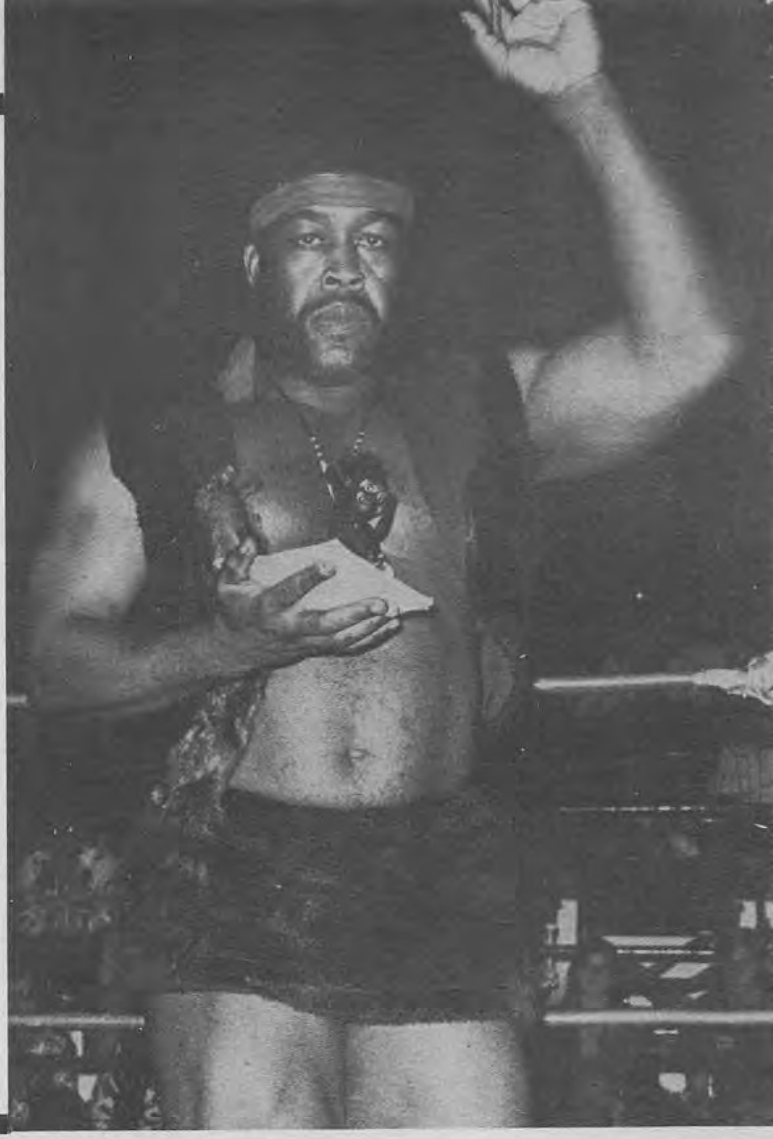
The Congo's Ormand Malumba came to the U.S. hoping to fight the top scientific mat men of this country, but he has mostly been pitted against brutal rule breakers.

ORMAND MALUMBA; AFRICAN STAR

By ROGER A. DEEM



WHEN someone asks who the greatest black wrestler in the world is, one might hear names like Bobo Brazil, Ernie Ladd, Sonny King, Rocky Johnson, Rufus R. Jones or "Bearcat" Wright. Yet one of the newest wrestlers in the United States, Ormand Mulumba, is perhaps the best of the bunch.

Although Mulumba has wrestled only a year or two, he has already piled up an enviable winning streak in the U.S. and Canada. He has one of the most impressive physiques in wrestling today. He combines strength with speed, ability and agility to form a most formidable opponent.

Mulumba originally hails from the Congo, in Africa. He first came to Canada in hopes of wrestling some of the top stars of the country. He was pitted against men such as Wladek "Killer" Kowalski, Gilles "The Fish" Poisson, Don Leo Jonathan, Mad Dog Vachon, and other rule breakers.

Although Ormand became very popular with the fans, he was subjected match after match to some of the most brutal tactics imaginable. He pleaded with promoters for a match with a scientific wrestler to give him a chance to show his ability in the ring. But instead of a scientific struggle, he was matched against The Shiek!

Mulumba went on a tour of Japan for a month, and when he returned he decided to venture forth in the United States to search for scientific matches. His search lasted only a few days before he discovered the Midwest. He talked with a promoter who agreed to give him a match with a scientific wrestler. The promoter surveyed the area's wrestlers and picked Dan Burdick, a good looking rookie, to oppose Mulumba.

Ormand was signed for several showings on television before the bout. Although the action was not always scientific, Mulumba did manage to gain a great following of fans who enjoyed the ring antics of the African wrestler.

Mulumba trained very hard for the upcoming match against Burdick. He worked on holds and counterholds as well as building up his endurance. The match was slated for the best of three falls with a 60 minute time limit.

The match itself stirred public interest. Fans had heard the backround of this match and were expecting to see a great scientific match. None of the spectators who witnessed the match were disappointed.

The two wrestlers shook hands before the match. Throwing caution to the wind, they locked up in the referee's hold. Mulumba began the action with a series of dazzling armdrags that stunned both the fans and Burdick. Using his great strength, Mulumba worked over Burdick's arm with an armlock. Burdick, though, was not to be undone. Dan got to his feet and hiptossed Ormand. Mulumba was then trapped in a short arm sissors by the quick Burdick. Now it was Mulumba who was weakening.

Ormand managed to pry himself loose, and the two men locked fingers in a test of strength. Burdick was forced down to one knee by the great power in the arms of Mulumba. Yet he managed to come to his feet and cartwheel out of the hold. Burdick then delivered a brutal body slam to Mulumba. He tried the maneuver once again, but this time, was trapped in a front rolling cradle by Mulumba and dropped the first fall. The time of the fall was 18:04.

Fall number two ended almost before it began as Mulumba, wanting to finish Burdick off quickly, threw him into the ropes with the hope of delivering a back body drop. Instead, Burdick trapped Ormand in a jacknife and rolling cradle to win the second stanza in 1:05.

Mulumba was determined to defeat Burdick for the final fall. Burdick was just as emphatic about whipping Mulumba. The fall began as a repetition of the first, with both wrestlers having the advantage several times. Every time Burdick thought he had Mulumba pinned, Ormand would slip away, and every time Ormand thought Burdick was down for the count, Dan would bridge out.

Both wrestlers displayed their vast knowledge of scientific wrestling. The crowd was on its feet cheering long before the match was over. Both wrestlers had proven their ability and both deserved to win. However, the end came very suddenly.

Burdick caught Mulumba with a series of flying headsissors. The first two worked like a charm, but when he tried a third, Mulumba caught him in mid air, and delivered a bone-rattling body slam. The whole ring moved two feet from the impact. He threw Burdick into the ropes, flipped him high in the air and down hard to the mat. Following that with another crushing body slam, Mulumba wrapped his foe in a reverse rolling cradle and won the match after 15:51 had elapsed in the third fall.

Burdick rose to his feet and shook hands with Mulumba. They embraced and Burdick raised Ormands' hand in victory. Both wrestlers left to the cheers of the fans.

Mulumba is building a record which may lead to a shot at the Central States champion or even to a crack at the world championship. He doesn't always get a chance to face scientific wrestlers, but those who oppose him know that this African superstar is but a small step away from the richest prizes in wrestling.

(Above) Finally getting a "scientific" match, Ormand takes Dan Burdick down for the first fall. (Left) In a match where both wrestlers displayed a vast knowledge of holds, Malumba, who is getting ready to toss Burdick, ultimately won the match amid cheers for both wrestlers.

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RING INTERVIEW: LOU THESZ, 6 TIME CHAMP

(Continued from page 22)

trate his eyes squarely on yours and never shift them when he started for his hold. If he were diving for your legs, he wouldn't look at them, he wouldn't even think about them. He'd just keep staring right into your eyes and let his body make the move—"

Suddenly my knees buckled, and I found all 130 lbs. of myself dangling upside down like a puppet in the grip of its master. Just a second ago I had been conversing with Lou Thesz, former champion of the world. I know it was him because I was looking directly into his eyes. Thesz graciously declined to batter my skull against the cement floor and gently returned me to my feet.

His eyes gleaming with mischief, Lou said, "The secret lies in concentration."

And how!

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH CALLED LIL

(Continued from page 19)

Whatever her reasons, I can only attest to what my eyes saw, my ears heard or my heart felt when I beheld her in action against Dagmar, and that was pure, contagious, unadulterated excitement! Two nights later to test if I had been victim of exaggerated responses I saw her in a different ring team with Anne Casey against Dagmar and Cora Combs. The veteran Combs demonstrated a deft sureness of holds and counterholds, Dagmar and Casey looked prettier than a hutchful of Hugh Hefner's bunnies, but Diamond Lil upstaged them all. When she launched her attacks, it became once again a truly electrifying experience.

Diamond Lil is one of the most provocative stars of the mat today, and that's no cliche.

"I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE," SNARLS DOUG SOMERS

(Continued from page 37)

not," snarled Doug Somers.

Towering at 6'3" and weighing 230 pounds, Doug works out two or three hours a day and then participates in other sports such as baseball, football, or tennis. He spends the remainder of his leisure time watching television or listening to some of his favorite rock groups on his stereo.

The outstanding athlete became interested in wrestling for many reasons. Money, world travel, lots of excitement and fun, are on the top of the list. He finds being on the road, one of the dislikes of being a wrestler, and says he never gets a chance to see the city he is wrestling in.

"Minnesota and Georgia are the best places I've ever wrestled," stated Doug. "The people are great, the promotions are fair, and the competition, rough." And "rough" is exactly what this impressive, young grappler enjoys.

WATCH OUT FOR PRO KARATE'S MARION BERMUDEZ

(Continued from page 46)

posed to be doing than she did. They let her into the first round without a mouthpiece but with a necklace on. The instructor who had gotten her into the fight was sitting at ringside officiating. Bermudez's instructor was in her corner as usual. The fight was halted in round two when Perez's mouth filled with blood.

During the fight her instructor had told her corner people to throw in the towel if she got hurt. If? After the match he couldn't even tell how much of a purse his student was supposed to get. All he knew was that a warm body, female and wearing a black belt was needed. He supplied one to get his name on the program. Nice guy.

Contrast this with Bermudez's instructor who sticks to her like glue whenever the nosy press gets too close, and who carefully chooses her opponents. Bermudez will never be caught giving away a nearly 20% weight advantage which is what Perez did.

Bermudez's goal in life is to become a good fighter. Note that there is no mention of sex there. Although she has a degree from Arizona State she plans to do nothing with it. If she is going to last long enough to make a splash in the featherweight ranks (she weighs 125), Bermudez will have to avoid getting involved in ridiculous matches with either men or women who outweigh her. So far, her largest opponent in a full-contact bout weighed in at 134. He won, but that's not going to happen again too soon. You can bet on it.

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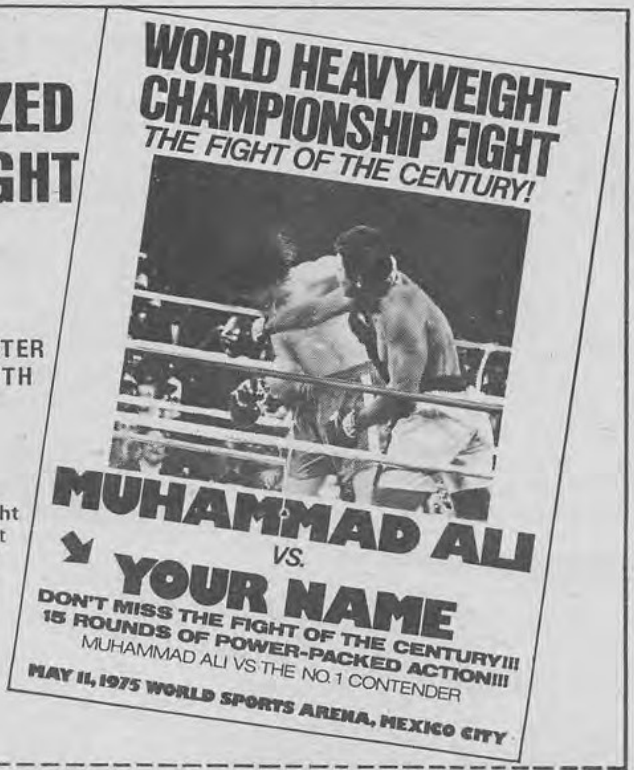

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"LEAN, MEAN MACHINE," BOCKWINKEL, IS AWA CHAMPION!

(Continued from page 7)

Parks, Red Bastien, Ken Patera, Jim Brunzell, Mad Dog Vachon and a host of others have all felt the wrath of the Machine.

Verne Gagne, the man whom Bockwinkel dethroned, indicated that he was contemplating retirement before the shocking title bout, but that he has obliterated that thought from his mind now.

"If I would have been pinned fairly and squarely in the middle of the ring, it would have been one thing," Gagne fumed, "but the way this was done, I will not retire. Bockwinkel says that I ran from him when I had the title, which isn't true. But wait until you see the track meet now that Bockwinkel has the title."

The Bockwinkel-Gagne title affair did not have a return clause in the contract. Wicked Nick maintains that the former champion has to "prove himself to be worthy" of a rematch. Bockwinkel's manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, who latched onto Nick in the summer of 1974, insists that Gagne is too far down the line to even be considered a contender. The fiery Heenan, who has teamed with Bockwinkel on occasion, has contributed to the unpopularity that Bockwinkel has established with the fans. His insistence that Gagne be ignored adds fuel to the fire.

Whether or not Gagne will get his return go with the new world champion remains to be seen. In the meantime, Bockwinkel has been successful in his title defenses since his championship victory, even venturing into NWA stronghold St. Louis to show his wares. If Gagne, or anyone, is to dethrone Bockwinkel, it appears that it will take a supreme effort. His title victory seems to have made him even more ruthless, and his manager even more difficult to deal with. Unpopular though he may be, Nick Bockwinkel has scored the ultimate—a world title victory—and the lean, mean machine shows no signs of letting up.

"I have done it. I have accomplished it," Bockwinkel grins. "It was just a matter of time."

THE DAY MOOLAH LOST THE WORLD TITLE TO CHIYO OBATA

(Continued from page 15)

friend and tag team partner, Terumi Sakura, helped the new champ wrap the belt around her waist. Finally after acknowledging the cheers of the crowd, Chiyo Obata departed from the ring, the new women's world heavyweight champion.

Upon the announcement, The Fabulous Moolah immediately lodged a formal protest claiming that she was unjustly robbed of her title. However, the Japanese commission upheld Obata's victory. They did order the new champion to meet Moolah in two weeks time in a rematch for the title.

Prior to their meeting Moolah spoke to reporters, "I am still the rightful women's heavyweight champion. The title is only supposed to pass on by a pin fall or submission, and neither of these happened to me. Tonight when the match is over that belt will be right back where it belongs, around my waist."

In the return match, Chiyo Obata once again had complete control, but consistent interference on the part of Sandy Parker and Paula Kaye enabled the Fabulous Moolah to regain her title.

Although Chiyo Obata is no longer the women's world heavyweight champion, anyone who saw either of these two matches knows who is the better wrestler, and it is only a matter of time before the belt will once again return to the true women's world heavyweight champion, Chiyo Obata.

TERRY FUNK: NEW NWA CHAMP

(Continued from page 8)

defend his title increases. Recently the NWA gained two new members. Bob Langevin, well known promoter in Montreal and the rest of Quebec, recently joined the all powerful NWA. Rudy Kay and Al Zinc have also joined the NWA body and have added the Maritime Providences to the oldest governing body in the sport. With these two areas of Canada now part of the NWA the whole of Canada is under the NWA banner. (Winnipeg, Manitoba and a few other cities in that region are an exception they are under the AWA banner). Thirty eight states, 3 territories, 10 foreign countries come under the NWA and the champion will have to defend his title in the areas mentioned here.

Competition is going to be stronger and tougher then ever. Some of the contendors that Terry Funk is going to be wrestling in the course of the next few months include Dusty Rhodes, The Bruiser, Lord Al Hayes, Raymond Rougeau, The Sheik, Harley Race, Giant Baba, Billy Robinson, Don Muraco, Ripper Collins, Stan Stasiak, Rocky Johnson, Professor Tanaka, Dick Murdock, Killer Karl Krupp, Inoki, Gilles Poisson, Leo Burk, Ron Fuller, Pat Patterson, Bull Ramos and a host of others. At least there is one wrestler that Terry won't have to worry about as a contendor and that is his brother Dory, Jr. NWA rules don't allow close relatives to engage in professional wrestling matches against each other.

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RINGSIDEBELLS on Archive.org

By JACK O'SHEA

A SENSATIONAL ROOKIE— "PISTOL PEZ" WHATLEY

EVERY year a new crop of Rookies breaks into the wrestling profession with dreams of someday becoming world champion, but only a handful of these determined grapplers ever make it big in the sport. In most cases one can tell which wrestler or wrestlers will make it, and once you've seen "Pistol Pez" Whatley in action then you'll see for yourself why this sensational grappler has been placed into that "can't miss" category.

"Pistol Pez" can do it all! He knows all of the scientific aspects of the profession, and he can also get very rough and rugged when the time calls for it. Whatley also possesses that magnetic charm and charisma that automatically turns a crowd into a frenzy the minute he steps into a ring. Seeing him in action one would get the impression that Whatley is a seasoned veteran of the mat rather than a mere rookie with less than a year's experience behind him.

"Pistol Pez" received his first formal training in the wrestling profession while at college, and from his initial introduction to the sport Whatley immediately knew the career that he wanted to pursue on a full time basis.

Whatley vividly recalls this early schooling, "My official introduction to the sport occured through a really good friend of mine, George Wigernoff. As you may know George's father, Saul, is very active in this profession as a manager of some of the top wrestlers in the country, and George kind of got me interested in wrestling. We were together on the wrestling team at the University of Chattanooga, in Tennessee, and we always talked a lot about wrestling and our future careers. Since George had been around wrestling all his life, he opened my eyes towards wrestling as a possible career opportunity, and I'm very glad that I did choose to become a professional wrestler."

After mastering all of the scientific aspects of the profession, the time had come for Whatley's first professional match. The place was Kentucky, and from the opening bell Whatley proved to be a sensation. His flying maneuvers and his all around scientific skills quickly opened up a huge fan following for the newcomer that has continued.

It was in his first professional match that Whatley was tagged with the moniker "Pistol Pez" by top promoter Phil Golden. This name has now become synonomous with the high flying, fast moving fans' favorite.

From Kentucky, Whatley moved his base of operations to the Louisiana area, and it was here that "Pistol Pez" first started to receive national recognition and exposure. Although the going wasn't easy in the Southwest, Whatley did manage to pick up quite a bit of valuable experience wrestling in the Oklahoma-Louisiana circuit. "Man was it tough there," Whatley recalled. "I had only

Rookie "Pistol Pez" Whatley works fans everywhere into a frenzy with his combination of scientific know how and rough 'n tough ability. (Above) Whatley boots Eric the Red in the mid section and (left) he prepares to toss Pierre Mortel into the ropes.

been wrestling for a few months, and I was going up against some of the best in the sport. I knew then that if I wanted to make progress I was gonna have to get tougher and rougher in order to meet the challenges that lay ahead, and I did.

"I went out and trained and trained some more. With this determination and effort I started to make real good progress, and eventually I got to the point where I was able to battle all of the veterans and come out on top in over 95% of my matches."

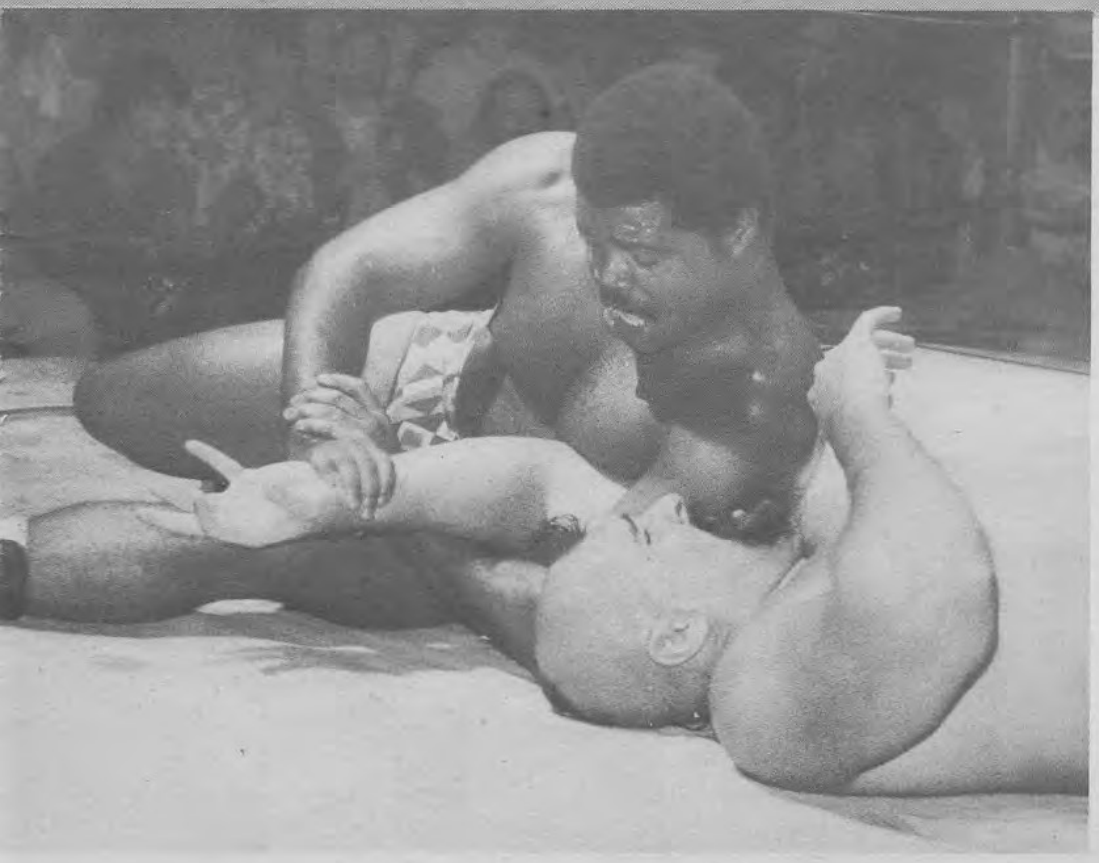
After completing his tour in the Oklahoma-Louisiana area "Pistol Pez" immediately joined the I.W.A. and once again the Tennessee native quickly became one of the most talked about wrestlers on the circuit. Fans, as well as his fellow wrestlers, quickly took notice of his all-around talent and non-stop determination and pegged him a future "Superstar." Tex McKenzie, when asked to comment on "Pistol Pez," had this to say about the Tennessee flash: "Pez has got to be one of the best young wrestlers I've seen in a long, long time. Geez! I can see him becoming a champion some day because he's got his stuff all together and he's still learning the sport. I sure as heck hate to be in that ring when Pez gets mad and starts delivering those coco butts, because he can really send you for some loop."

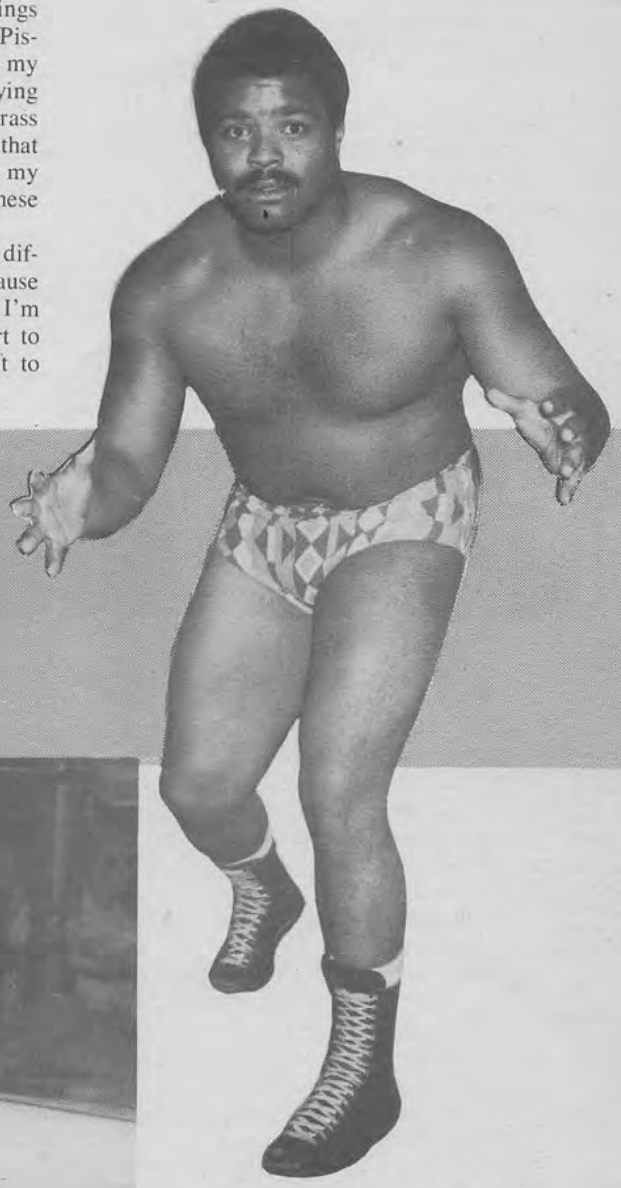
At the present time Whatley has been very active in his home state of Tennessee and here. "Pistol Pez" with his many sensational victories has definitely proven to be a top upcoming wrestler. His determination alone is enough to make Pez a success, but the Tennessee flash also has quite a few things going for him. "I just love to wrestle," Pistol has stated. "My favorite maneuver is my head butt, but I like to do a lot of flying stuff, too. When you get right down to brass tacks, however, I love to do anything that will bring me a win. I like my armlocks, my leg locks, hip locks, arm drags, and these kinds of things make you a winner.

"Hey, I try to do something new and different every time I'm in that ring because this is the only way you can really learn. I'm still young and I know that when I start to mature in this profession I will make it to the top."

"Pistol Pez" Whatley has the perfect attitude to become a success in his new profession and someday this talented newcomer may just make it all the way to the World Championship!

A PRO FOR BARELY A YEAR, "PISTOL PEZ" HAS ALREADY MADE HIS MARK IN THE RING.





This well built specimen shows little difficulty in dealing with veterans like Bobo Mongol, seen to the left in a reverse arm lock.

WRESTLING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By CHARLES A. IRVEN

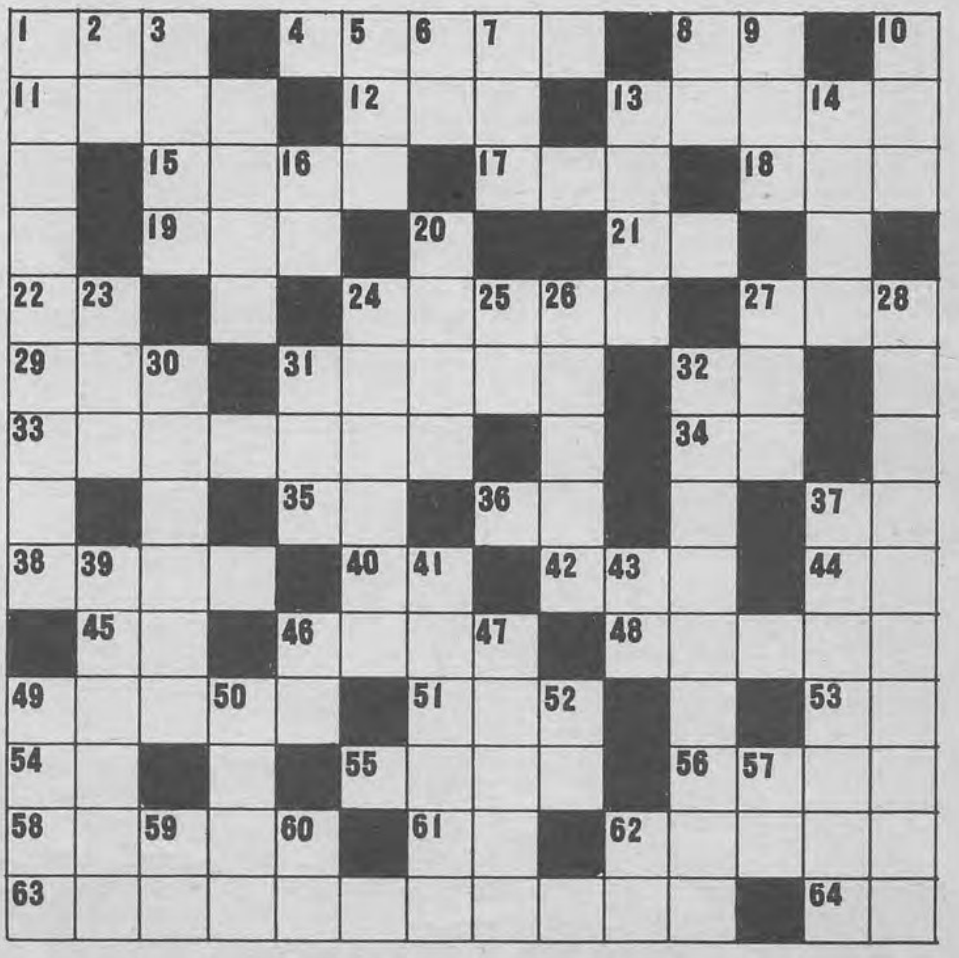
ACROSS

1. Popular grappler Bobby ——.
4. Last name of popular Southern strongman star, he doesn't actually carry the world on his back, ——.
8. Initials of might midget maiden Baby Cheryl.
11. Skillful newcomer —— Pinfold.
12. Donna, Toni, and Alma are all —— grapplers.
13. Masterful midget mauler Tom ——.
15. Lady grappler Patti ——.
17. Rising star from the land of the Rising Sun, Mr. ——.
18. Fabulous Funk family's favorite hold, the spinning —— hold.
19. Half of tag team once called chicken champs by Southern fans, Gene and —— Anderson.
21. Father of the Fighting Funks, Dory Funk ——.
22. Initials of popular Texan Nelson Royal.
24. Big John Tolos claims that he never hits with the closed fist, and that each blow he lands is a legal Forearm ——.
27. Rough tough Japanese grappler, —— Kamata.
29. A barefoot wrestler takes the chance that a baddie might pull on or bite a ——.
31. Lovely lass with a temper, temper, temper pretty Patti ——.
32. Initials of Gene, brother of #19 across.
33. Rough tough grappler, the ——.
34. Initials of past great wrestler turned referee Leo Garibaldi.
35. Dale Lewis has wrestled in a mask twice, once as the Spoiler, and once as —— Blood.
36. Initials of past champion, Giant of the Northland Bronko Nagurski.
37. Initials of #2 across.
38. —— Mr. Universe Maynard, a very skillful and popular grappler.
40. Initials of Jr. Heavyweight Champion Roger Kirby.
42. Skilled grappler —— Christy.
44. Initials of pile driving wrestler Nick Bockwinkle.
45. Initials of Lady Champ Lillian Ellison. (Sometimes known as Fabulous Moolah)
46. Wrestler whose birthday is December 31, —— Jack.
48. Japanese grappler Mr. ——.
49. Universally recognized as world champion, he retired from Wrestling in 1913 as World Heavyweight Champion, Frank ——.
51. State in which Wrestling enjoys much popularity, home state of the International Amphitheatre. (Abbr.)
53. Big bad villian Bob the —— Baker.
54. Ernie the Cat Ladd has the number 99 —— his wrestling tights.
55. Dick Garza has gained fame and fortune wrestling as the Mighty ——.
56. A Rose by another name is a —— Rose.
58. One of the rough tough grapplers sometimes called Crusher, is —— Verdue.
61. Initials of bruising brawling tag team the Hells Angels.
62. Skilled preliminary grappler who could make it to the top, Mike ——.
63. Real name of wrestler Smasher Sloan, his initials are D.W. ——.
64. Initials of talented grappler Soldat Gorky.

DOWN

1. Brother of Greg, master of the brain buster, rough tough Johnny —— is a favorite of St. Louis Wrestling fans.
2. Brawling baddies managed by Sir Clements Don and —— Greene.
3. A tough grappler —— Ortega.
5. Initials of Japanese star The Great Fuji.
6. First name of All Star Mexican mattman —— Pantera Negra.
7. He held the championship belt for a while in 1936, —— Baba.
8. Initials of grappler Bob Harmon before he tagged himself Beautiful Bobby.
9. The Shiek, The Bruiser, and Blassie will use anything as a weapon to —— an opponent.
10. Promoter Ford, wrestler Jacobs, and President Lincoln, each an Honest ——.
13. Veteran Japanese star performer —— Togo.
14. This veteran Japanese matman now referees most of the time, call him Mister, Mr. ——.
16. Initials of first and last names of German giant Fritz Von Erich.
20. First name of #4 Across.
23. His father's name is Buddy, his brother's name is Robert. He of course is —— Fuller.
24. Shapely brunette beauty, this family gal doesn't look the part of a girl grappler, —— Lee.
25. Initials of fantastic footman Argentina Rocca.
26. New wrestling star, his name is the

(Continued on page 58)



JUST ASK

(Continued from page 48)

A. *Bob Roop was a member of the U.S. wrestling team in the 1968 Olympics; however, he did not win a Gold medal. Roop has held many amateur titles including being a five-time AAU All-American and a nine time place winner along with winning the National AAU 220 pound championship in 1969. Roop is considered by many to be one of the outstanding contenders for the NWA crown today.*

Q. When is the Wrestling Fans International Convention going to be held and where?

D. Parente
Stamford, Conn.

A. *The ninth annual WFIA Convention is scheduled for July 15th, 16th and 17th in Kansas City, Missouri. The annual affair will be filled with three days of interesting items and features for all wrestling buffs. More information is available by writing to Convention headquarters, Miss Diane Devine, PO Box 1902, Bechtold Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63118. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope when you write to Diane. This columnist will be there and hopes to meet many of you there too.*

Q. What titles has Billy Robinson held?

M. Sala
Edgerton, Wisc.

A. *Billy has held both the British and European championships at the same time. The Middle East title, Jr. Heavyweight of Great Britain, a claim to the world championship when he won a tournament in Japan in 1969, co-holder of the AWA tag ittle, Far Eastern Heavyweight Title and at this writing he holds the Southern States crown.*

Q. Are the Valiant Bros. coming back to the East Coast?

K. Sprauge
Wilbraham, Mass.

A. *Negotiations are under way to have the Valiants return to the WWWF by a famous manager.*

Q. Is the Sensational Intelligent Destroyer ever going to come back to the USA?

E. Hall
Los Angeles, Ca.

A. *The great masked man intends on a world tour this summer and is hoping to make the U.S. a stop over. His services are in demand by promoters in Europe and in South Africa as well as in the Middle East.*

Q. Have the Blackjacks split up?

V. Fowler
Bronx, NY

A. *The team of Blackjack Mulligan and Lanza is currently inactive, however, that does not mean that they have split up permanently. Mulligan is in the Virginia-Carolina circuit while his partner is in the St. Louis area.*

Q. Is it true that Chief Jay Strongbow had a heart attack and retired from wrestling?

J. Bowen
Scranton, Pa.

A. *This office has received a number of inquiries on Chief Jay in the last few months. The popular Chief is alive and well. He has been wrestling in Atlanta, Georgia, for some time now along with various appearances in Detroit and also in Toronto.*

Q. Did Bruno Sammartino and The Crusher ever team up?

F. Albano
Albany, NY

A. *No. Bruno did team up with The Bruiser a few years back and they held the WWA tag team title when they defeated Ernie Ladd and Baron Von Raschke.*

Q. Has Mil Mascaras ever wrestled his brothers?

C. Curtis
Richmond, Va.

A. *Mil has never wrestled either of his brothers professionally.*

Q. Will Johnny Valentine ever wrestle again?

J. Dodgins
Southfield, Mich.

A. *Johnny made his first public appearance at a wrestling card in Houston, Texas, in January. John told the fans that he hoped that he would be back wrestling in Houston taking part in the annual battle royal held every January. We wish Johnny all the luck in the world and hope to see him active in the ring once again.*

Q. How can I follow the results of some of my favorite wrestlers when they go overseas or leave my area?

G. Miller
Seattle, Wash.

A. *Possibly the best way to keep an eye on your favorite wrestler when he leaves your area is to send for the monthly newsletter put out by Global Wrestling Enterprise, 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Ma. 01108. This newsletter is filled with results, news and comments from all around the world. For only 25¢ and a stamped self addressed envelope it is one of the best buys in wrestling today. Professionally printed on both sides of 8x14 size paper a fan really gets his or her money's worth.*

Q. Who won the Los Angeles Battle Royal of 1976?

T. Simms
NYC, N.Y.

A. *Java Ruuk was the winner of the 22 man battle royal.*

Q. How tall is Ivan Putski?

W. Lucas
York, Pa.

A. *Ivan stands five feet nine inches tall.*

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Hire the Handicapped

WRESTLING CROSSWORD

(Continued from page 56)

same as character portrayed by Roger Moore in past popular T.V. series The ——.

27. Becker and Weaver are a popular —— team in the South.
28. Another very popular sports book publisher by "Ring Inc." is The —— ——. (Two Words)
30. First name of champ who dethroned #7 Across on June 26, 1936, —— Marshall.
31. Lanza and Heenan are often refereed to as Wrestlings "—— Couple."
32. Before picking up the tag "Killer" Buddy Austin was known as the Golden ——.
37. That which belongs to Jean, is said to be Miss ——.
39. Skillful grappler —— Dantes.
41. Big Bill Miller wrestled sas masked matman The Crimson ——.
43. Initials of brother of Mil Mascares, El Sicedellico.
46. Initials of German grappler Karl Heisinger.
47. Ivan Koloff did not have long to —— about taking the W.W.W.F. Championship.
49. If you were ill you really wouldn't want to call villaneous matman the —— Doctor.
50. Super bad man, and the favorite hold of Fritz Von Erich, The ——.
52. Initials of skillful Southern Yankee Len Rossi.
57. In a tag team match one wrestler —— the other should remain outside of the ropes on the ring apron.
59. Initials of grappler whose birthday is September 3, Czaya Nandor.
60. Initials of Southern wrestling star who likes to be billed at "Mr. Profile," Rip Hawk.
62. Same as #43 Across.

Answers on page 60

NEBRASKA RESULTS
By JAYE L. HUEY

▲From KeTV, Ch. 7. Omaha, Nebraska via video tape from Minneapolis Wrestling Club, Minneapolis Minn. (Promoter Wally Karbo, Ex. Producer of these bouts—(former AWA World's Champion, Verne Gagne).

1st Bout—Pampero Firpo, defeated Paul Persahman in 4:20 time with El Garfeuo (a claw hold).

2nd Bout—Big Bad Bob Duncum, stomped, choked and clawed Peter Lee, in 3:06 time.

3rd Bout—Wicked, Tricky, Nick Borkwinkle, defeated Frank Hill, in 3:10 time—of course, Nick received outside help from his manager Bobby "Delmonte Brain" Heenan.

4th Bout—A tag Team match—Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell, very neatly defeated Dick Reynolds and Bob Backlund two out of three falls, at 16:20 time. All four wrestlers shook hands after the match.

▲From KeTV-Ch. 7 Omaha, Nebraska.

1st Bout—Pampero Firpo very quickly defeated Joe Zapodo, in 3:10 time. Poor Joe, he just couldn't stand Pampero's garlic breath any longer! (Pompero eats garlic buds like he would eat popcorn.

2nd bout—Baron Fritz Von Roschke defeated Kenny Jay, two falls out of three in 12:08 time. (after the bout, Der Goot Baron, was strutting around the ring, he tripped over the belt of his robe and fell flat on his face, to the screaming delight of everyone.)

3rd bout—Bob Backlund defeated Tom DeMario, with the Atom Bomb drop in 4:00 time.

5th Bout—Bull Bullinski defeated Chuck Selle, in 3:02 time.

▲From KeTV-Ch. 7, Omaha, Nebr. 1st Bout—Johnny (Apple Sauce) Valiant defeated Kenny Jay, in 4:06 time.

2nd Bout—Renny Symth and Bob LeMilles, were very neatly defeated by Big Joe LeDuc and Larry Hennig in 13:06 time.

3rd bout—Dirty Bob Duncum, with much outside help, by olde Delmonte Brain Bobby Heenan, managed to beat Cesar Pavone in 6:12 time.

4th bout—Greg Gagne defeated George Gudaski, in 3:16 time. This was a very scientific bout—really terrific all the way.

5th Bout—Baron Von Raschke brutally clawed and defeated Peter Lee, in 4:10 time.

▲Omaha, Nebraska — Civic Arena. 1st Bout—A 15 minute handicap event, Young Bob Backlund very neatly defeated the Raging Von Raschke in 14:01 time! The latter part of December, 1975, The AWA Association suspended Von Raschke for about 25 days, due to his brutal way of beating his opponents.

Proud as a peacock (the Prussian kind!) and he's mad as a soggy wet hen. No wonder. The strutting german who has headlined pro wrestling cards from New Yorks Madison Square Garden to Tokyo is religated to the opening perlim? On to-nights first Omaha offering of 1976—opening perlim? What a jolt to the ego! What an affront to his "self confessed boast as the World's Greatest Wrestler." "It's very humbling I know, said Promoter, Joe Dusek, but the Baron has to pay for his misdeeds here late in 1975," when The American Wrestling Association set him down for 25 or 30 days for his constant defiance of the rules.

In a sense, the AWA says Von Raschke has to start from the bottom. And bout #1 on a five bout card is starting at the bottom. Yeah! The Baron screamed long and loud. But he has to pay the fiddler and tonight's the night he starts paying his dues for past indiscretions.

Many feels sorry for Bob Backlund but young Bob, sure proved he could jolly well take good care of himself when he defeated Von Raschke in 14:06 time.

Anyway, welcome back Herr Baron, now behave. Behave? fat chance.

2nd bout—The Wily 4th degree Sam Dan, black belt karate and judo expert, Kim Duk very quickly beat Bull Bullinski, in 8:49 time.

3rd Bout—In spite of everything, Referee Tom Novak tried to do, to exactly give the bout to Jimmy Valiant). Big Joe LeDuck, beat the pure snot out of Jimmy Valiant in only 10:05 time.

4th Bout—Jim Brunzell and Pampero Firpo, lost the match to olde Delmonte Brain, Bobby Heenan and Bob Duncum, on a disq. at 33:08 time. Greg Gagne, was injured in a recent bout earlier in the week, a concussion kept him from wrestling with Jim in the tag team bout.

So Pampero Firpo filled in for Greg, as Tag Team partner with Jim Brunzell, Although Jim and Pampero lost the bout as a disq. They really had a ball, passing Heenan and Duncum around like two bean bags!!

5th Bout—(For The World's Championship Title). The current AWA World's Heavyweight Champion, Nick Bockwinkle, with much aid from his manager olde Delmonte Brain Heenan and Tom Novak, the referee after 35:00 minutes, he finally managed to defeat Larry "The Ax" Hennig. In 35:00 time.

If Nick Bockwinkle is really a true champion, then I'm "Whistler's Mother." And as yet, I'm not hardly as old as "Whistler's Mother."

▲From KeTV, Ch. 7. Omaha, Nebraska; 1st Bout—Larry "The Ax" Hennig, defeated Tito Martino, in 3:12 time.

2nd Bout—Baron Von Raschke, defeated George Gudaski, in 4:08 time.

3rd Bout—Jim Brunzell, beat Frank Hill, in 5:12 time.

4th Bout—Nick Bockwinkle, defeated Kenny Jay in 3:06 time. This wasn't a title bout.

5th Bout—Bob Duncum, very brutally stomped, choked and strangled Dick Reynolds to defeat in 6:08 time.

BALTIMORE WRESTLING SCENE
By JERRY MOSHENBERG

Baltimore, Md. — Spiros Arion has been contending for some time now that WWWF champ Bruno Sammartino has deserved devistating retribution. Arian has told everyone that the Italian Superman used and abused the Golden Greek years ago when both men were seemingly close. "I always beat Bruno in the gym," claimed Spiros. "He held me back."

Now that Arion has joined forces with former wrestling great Fred Blassie, his grappling style has taken a turn for the worse. He's cast aside any scientific matfare he once employed. He tried to demolish Sammartino at the Civic Center.

Arion attacked before the bell, slashed turnbuckles apart, and kicked his opponent around the squared circle. Sammartino retaliated and bashed Arion across the ring. Although unable to make the arrogant Arion submit with a bearhug—Bruno gave him a crotch-lift and body slam-pin at the 17:15 mark for a victory.

Superstar Billy Graham and former WWWF king-pin Ivan Koloff brought fear into the hearts of Baltimore fans with a crushing victory over Gorilla Monsoon and Manuel Soto. Soto substituted for Dom DiNucci and almost cost himself his career. Ivan Koloff came flying off the top ropes at 16 minutes of fall one and landed on Manny's chest for the pin. Soto had his head bashed about 10 times into the near turnbuckle. Fall two had to be awarded to the dastardly duo, since the popular Puerto Rican was carried out on a stretcher with multiple injuries.

Ivan Putski met an unusual foe in the person of Buggsy McGraw. McGraw battled Ivan outside the ring ropes and on the floor. Both men failed to return to the mat under the count of twenty and were counted out at 12:45.

Louis Cerdan and Tony Parisi measured Baron Mikel Scicluna and Frank Monte in two consecutive falls. Cerdan gave Scicluna a backslide and pin at 10:40. Parisi gave Monte an elbow-drop and press at 2:45 of the second go.

Mexican champion Francisco Florez gave Vincenti Pometti a coco-butt and press at 11:50. Pete Sanchez delivered a drop-kick and pin to Johnny Rodz at 4:20.

▲Baltimore, Md. — Jack Davis is probably the most competent wrestling referee these eyes have ever seen. Ten years ago he was plying his craft in Washington, D.C., and was as popular as most wrestlers in the area. Davis had a budding football career cut short by a knee injury. He tried wrestling for a spell, but never was able to remain 100% sound. It was when Jack donned the pin-stripes he really found himself.

When Bruno Sammartino and Ivan Koloff, two WWWF Champions, met in a rematch in Baltimore, Davis was tabbed to officiate. Unfortunately, Davis got too close to the action and got slammed in the jaw and facial area by Sammartino. It was not intentional by any means, but poor Jack was so dazed he declared the bout a no-contest at 18:40.

Jack, in softer moments, has been seen on national TV, singing the national anthem before Washington Redskin games.

Louis Cerdan and Tony Parisi may be the WWWF Tag-Team Champs—but Ernie Ladd and Superstar Billy Graham measured them two of three falls at the Civic Center. Both teams were disqualified in fall one at 11 minutes. Fall two went to the baddies at 6:30 as Graham pummelled Cerdan from the ring and the Frenchman could not return under the bell.

In a disappointing Texas Death Match, Ivan Putski was declared the victor over Buggsy McGraw. For some reason McGraw ran from the ring at the 13:48 mark and went back to the dressing room never to return!

Crusher Blackwell took a surprisingly easy victory from Mexican kingpin Francisco Florez. Blackwell gave his man an elbow smash and press at 10:14. Pete Sanchez was injured in a prelim bout with Kevin Sullivan at 12 minutes and the match was declared a draw. Irish Pat Barrett was give a disqualification victory when Frank Monte socked referee Howard Jackman at 5:38.

In midget battle teammates Little Louis and Coco Kid defeated Billy The Kid and Little John in two of three falls; total time—16:28.

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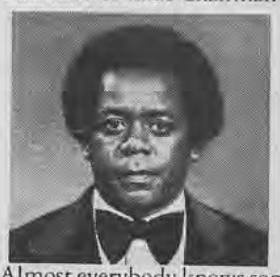

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This space contributed by the publisher.

FAN CLUB NEWS

(Continued from page 29)

3 exciting issue of Rasslin' Wonders. The address is: PO Box 72, Penndel, Pa. 19047. Mike also has some special photos for sale for only 50¢. They are 8×10's of Bruno Sammartino, Andre the Giant, Bobo Brazil and Antonio Rocca. All four for only $1.50. If you just want a copy of Rasslin' Wonders send in 75¢ for a sample. Tell them RING WRESTLING sent you.

Mick Karch heads the Bockwinkel Brigade for the AWA kingpin, Nick Bockwinkel. Mick always has an interesting and informative bulletin on his honorary. I would suggest all fans of Nick to contact Mick. The club address is: 5621 Minnetonka Blvd., Apt 210, St. Louis Park, MN. 55416.

Now to some approved photographers.

Terrance Machalek of 448 Jefferson Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2V 0N2 has a fine selection of photos for sale. A sample of Terry's work is seen in this column, that of the Mighty Igor. Send Terry 10¢ for his list. His work is of high quality and the price is just right.

Kevin Korn has an impressive list of wrestlers from the Detroit area on his photo list. Send a 13¢ stamp for a copy of Kevin's list. His address is: 28600 Boston, St. Clair Shores, Mi. 48081.

Photos of WWWF stars are available from Joe Cefala of 127 Glenbridge Ave., Providence, RI 02909. Send a SSAE for a list.

Jeff Cohen has a fine selection of WWA wrestling stars in his photo list. Jeff's list is free and his address is 547 E. Hunters Dr., Carmel, Ind. 46032.

Orlando Macchina of 98 Blendale St., Nutley, N.J. 07110 has some fine shots of WWWF stars. Drop Orlando a SSAE for his list.

Gene Gordon has the most extensive list of any photographer in the country. His selection of photos cover nearly 25 years. If you are looking for something special Gene is the man to get a hold of. He has two sizes, 8×10 and 5×7. Gene has a great selection of new girl photos to add to his large collection of gal photos. Gene's address is: 419 Sylvania Ave., Charlotte, NC 28206.

Matt Buziak of 12 Newton St., Buffalo, NY 14212 is interested in purchasing old wrestling magazines from the 20's to the early 50's. Also any old wrestling programs in that time span from Buffalo, New York.

Bruno Galleano of 28 Webster St., South Dartmouth, Ma. 02748 would like to exchange wrestling cassettes with fans from outside the WWWF areas.

Barry Day would like pictures of The Mighty Igor. Barry's address is East 8th Street, Pennsburgh, Pa. 18073.

Kevin Sprague, Laurel Road, Wilbraham, Mass. 01095 wants to exchange TV wrestling cassettes with fans from the NWA, AWA, IWA and other areas for WWWF tapes.

Sales Department.

Jimmy Mack and Jay Rosen the producers of the Wide World of Wrestling Radio Show on station WHBI-105.9 FM—New York, New York, have put out a novelty record. This is a 45 rpm record with words and music about Captain Lou Albano and on the flip side there is an exclusive interview with the Captain. Record is available for $1.25. Send your check or money order to: Wrestling Record Offer, 80 Riverside Dr., NYC, N.Y. 10024.

Jean D. Vaughn-Baker has a fine selection of super 8 color movies for sale. Send for a list. Marina City, Apt. 3601W, 300 North State St., Chicago, Ill. 60610.

Old magazines are available from Patrick Parente, 104 Barton Ave., Patchogue, N.Y. 11772. Send a stamped self addressed envelope for list.

Now to the pen pal list.

Gladys Jester of 55 Bryant St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 wants to hear from fans of Tony Garea, Jack Brisco, Ed Carpentier and Dino Bravo.

Marc Glaser wants to hear from fans of Mil Mascarsas. Marc's address is: 10281 W. Bay Harbor Dr., Miami Beach, Fla. 33154.

Lisa Liggieri wants to hear from all Valiant Bros. fans. Lisa is one of the top Valiant fans around. Lisa's address is: 180 Manhattan Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07307.

Craig Derbin of 3032 Davison Rd., Lapper, Mich. 48446 would like to hear from fans that have old Detroit programs for sale or trade.

Dale Nesmith of 3702 S. Wallace St., Chicago, Ill. 60609 would like to hear from fans in the WWA area, St. Louis, Detroit and NYC. Dale has just informed me that he is starting a fan club for Sailor Art Thomas.

Ralph Thomas of 5449 Lebanon Ave., West Phila., Pa. 19131 would like to hear from fans of Bobo Brazil.

Glenn Jones of 139 Tappan St., Kearny, N.J. 07032 wants to exchange results with fans from all around the U.S. and Canada.

Ray Torres is an avid magazine collector. If you have any surplus magazines contact Ray at 193 Grant Ave., Totowa, N.J. 07512.

Dermot O'Shaughnessy of 11 Colmcille Tce., Granard, County Longford, Ireland, wants to hear from wrestling fans across the U.S. and Canada and elsewhere. Find out what is going on in the Emerald Island by writing to Dermot.

Fan club presidents, photographers, fans are invited to send in their request to this columnist for publication in this magazine. All correspondence, fan club publications, photos or anything else should be sent directly to me at the following address: 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Ma. 01108. See you next issue with more wrestling news and a report on the 1976 WFIA Convention.

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DETROIT MAT NEWS
By RONALD R. KIRKMAN

Mark Lewin, the United States Heavyweight Champion, closed the lid on "Bulldog" Don Kent as he successfully defended his title in a Shark Cage Death Match. Lewin dropkicked the "bulldog" back into the cage and kept his title.

The following card proved to be a real Christmas "bang." The scheduled main event posted Mark Lewin and Bobo Brazil Versus The Sheik and "Bulldog" Don Kent. Lewin was injured in the match by the double teaming of the opposition. Brazil let Lewin go back to the dressing room while he alone battled The Sheik and "Bulldog" Don Kent. Not long after, Lewin returned to the action with a huge two by four wooden board which he clobbered over the heads of both The Sheik and "Bulldog" Don Kent, after they were disqualified. The Christmas "surprise" then came. Abdullah The Butcher, who wasn't even scheduled on the card, came into the ring and overwhelmed Mark Lewin with the same two by four. The police entered and stopped The Butcher from killing Lewin. "Chief" Jay Strongbow and Bobo Brazil came back to the ring and carried the U.S. Champion to the dressing room on a stretcher.

Kurt Von Hess and Kurt Von Brauner defeated The Islanders in Toledo, Ohio, for the NWA World Tag Team Championship. The German's lost by disqualification to The Islanders, when they challenged them here in Detroit. Von Hess and Von Brauner soundly defeated El Brasero and the Magnificent Zulu in their first title defense.

Other "squared circle men" that appeared to close out a fantastic year of NWA Wrestling in Detroit were "King" Curtis Iaukea, Edouard Carpentier, Tiger Jeet Singh, George "The Animal" Steele, Frank "The Hammer" Goodish, "Chief" Jay Strongbow, Chris Markoff, The Canadian Wildman, Farkus The Wolfman, Adinon Kaissey, Hank James, Angelo and Randy Poffo, Lord Layton, Michael Angelo, "Iron" Mike Loren, Joe Matti plus the lightweights, Floyd Creachman and John Boy.

▲**"Superstars of Wrestling"** — Contact Sports, a member of the Canadian Wrestling Association (CWA). Titles recognized, CWA Heavyweight Champion-Dino Bravo, CWA Heavyweight tag team Champions - Bud & Ray Osbourne, International Wrestling Association (IWA) World Heavyweight Tag Team Champions - The Mongols.

Card 1 — Bolo Mongol beat Brian "Silent" Mackeny, 2nd, Dino Bravo beat "Killer" Buddy Austin (Non-Title Match); 3rd, Eric The Red beat Jim Lancaster; 4th, Luis Martinez beat Bud Osbourne (DQ) (Duration).

Card 2 — Luis Martinez beat "Killer" Buddy Austin; 2nd, Dino Bravo beat Jim Hutchinson (CWA Championship Match); 3rd, Ray Osbourne beat Jim Lancaster; 4th, The Mongols beat Brian "Silent" Mackney & Kimba Khan (Duration/Non-Title Match)

Card 3 — Luis Martinez beat Geeto Mongol (DQ); 2nd, Eric The Red beat Brian "Silent" Mackney; 3rd, Dino Bravo beat Bolo Mongol (DQ) (CWA Championship Match), 4th; Ray Osbourne beat Jim Lancaster; 5th, Bud & Ray Osbourne beat Terry Yorkston & Kimba Khan (Duration/Non-Title Match).

Card 4 — Eric The Red beat Luis Martinez (DQ); 2nd, Bud Osbourne beat Kimba Khan; 3rd, Dino Bravo beat Ray Osbourne (DQ) (CWA Championship Match); 4th, The Mongols beat Jim Lancaster & Brian "Silent" Mackney (Duration/Non-Title Match).

▲**Wrestling titles in Detroit, Michigan** — NWA World Heavyweight Champion - Terry Funk, United States Heavyweight Champion - Mark Lewin, NWA World Heavyweight Tag Team Champions - Kurt von Hess & Kurt von Brauner*. *Defeated the Islanders on December 18, 1975 for the title in Toledo, Ohio.

Card 1 — Detroit, Michigan, Cobo Convention Arena (NWA). 1st-The Canadian Wildman & Farkus The Wolfman beat Michael Angelo & El Brasero, 2nd-Hank James beat "Iron" Mike Loren, 3rd-Adinon Kaissey beat Chris Markoff (DQ), 4th-The Islanders beat Kurt Von Hess & Kurt Von Brauner (DQ) (NWA World Tag Team Championship Match), 5th-Tiger Jeet Singh beat Edouard Carpentier, 6th-The Sheik beat The Mighty Igor (DQ), 7th-Mark Lewin beat "Bulldog" Don Kent (United States Championship/Shark Cage Match).

Card 2 — Detroit, Michigan, Cobo Convention Arena (NWA). 1st-Floyd Creachman draw John Boy (Lightweight Wrestling Match), 2nd-Farkus The Wolfman beat Michael Angelo, 3rd-George "The Animal" Steele beat Sika The Islander, 4th-Kathy McCoy & Mighty Atlas beat Tara Taylor & Jacques (Mixed Woman/Midget Team Match), 5th-The Canadian Wildman beat Randy Poffo, 6th-Alofa The Islander draw Chris Markoff, 7th-Kurt Von Hess & Kurt Von Brauner beat El Brasero & Magnificent Zulu (NWA World Tag Team Championship Match), 8th-Lord Layotn beat Joe Matti, 9th-"Chief" Jay Strongbow, Edouard Carpentier & Hank James beat "King" Curtis Iaukea, Angelo Poffo & Frank "The Hammer" Goodish, 10th-Mark Lewis & Bobo Brazil beat The Sheik & "Bulldog" Don Kent (DQ).

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THE GREAT MILDRED BURKE: WRESTLER TURNED TRAINER

(Continued from page 42)

opponent and emerged victorious.

The huge attendance at the match and the great roars of the crowd that saluted the triumphant Burke made the promoters realize the enormous drawing power of this young woman, and she was quickly booked to wrestle males in all of the large arenas of the Midwest. Mildred set attendance records in every place that she wrestled. She also emerged victorious in every one of her bouts.

As Mildred Burke wrestled more and more men before bigger and bigger crowds, more and more women became interested in becoming professional wrestlers. They came to Mildred for advice, and not only did she encourage them in their quest, but she also trained them. Soon, the Midwestern crowds were seeing women wrestle women. As the ranks of women wrestlers grew, so did the crowd's demand for more matches between the women. One factor was always constant in the crowd's demand; of the two women they watched wrestle, they wanted one to be the undefeated Mildred Burke.

In 1936, Mildred became the first woman wrestler to appear in the South. She was an instant smash. She was, in fact, such a popular gate attraction there that she set attendance records in that area that still stand today. In that same year, Mildred wrestled Clara Mortensen for the Women's World Wrestling Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mortensen, a native Southerner, was the crowd favorite in the beginning of the match. Outweighed by almost forty pounds, Mildred was such a gallant and exciting performer in the ring that she soon had the fans on her side. Angered by Mortensen's cruel and savage kicks and punches in the ring, the fans cheered themselves hoarse when Mildred won the match and the Women's World Championship title. Mildred, irate at Mortensen's disregard for the rules, was not placated by her victory. After the match, she chased the much bigger girl to the dressing room, locked the door, and beat her unconscious.

That night in Chattanooga really marked the dawn of the Golden Age of Women's Wrestling. As the champion and most exciting performer of her era, Mildred commanded a salary of $50,000 per year at a time when many Americans were content to make $5.00 per week.

For twenty years, the redhead from Kansas wore the belt that signified her status as champion. She was an immensely popular champion. Her warmth and charm were, and are, always evident. Even today, she is never too busy or tired to talk with fans for hours on end. She makes it a point never to refuse the request for an autograph by a fan.

Not only a pioneer in the United States, Mildred introduced the sport of women's wrestling to the nation of Japan. Her appearances were all standing room only. Today, the women wrestlers in Japan consistently outdraw the male ones and the person responsible for this phenomenon is none other than Mildred Burke. Even today, Mildred's every appearance in the land of the Rising Sun is greeted by the Japanese by standing ovations.

Mildred Burke retired in 1957 as the undefeated women's wrestling champion. Her record becomes even more amazing when one realizes that for most of these twenty years, Mildred was wrestling six or seven times a week. Thus, she wrestled during this period in over 6,000 matches without ever losing one!

After her retirement, Mildred really did nothing for ten years. This woman, so used to physical activity during her career, chafed at inactivity. During this time, however, she received hundreds and hundreds of letters from males and females alike who were interested in becoming professional wrestlers, inquiring if she would help them. Finally, in 1967, Mildred Burke decided to do so. She opened a gym in California to teach people to become professional wrestlers. She has never regretted her decision to do so, for her gym is now one of the most famous in the world.

As a trainer, Mildred Burke is unique. She cares about her proteges out of the ring as well as in it. She pays, for example, the personal expenses of those to whom she is teaching the sport of wrestling. As a trainer of wrestlers, Mildred prefers to train women, although she does have many males learning the sport from her (one male, Bill Bailey, is a very affable South Carolinean whom Mildred believes will go far in the world of professional wrestling.) The list of those who have recently learned the sport of wrestling from Mildred reads like a current "Who's Who" in woman wrestling: Princess War Star, Jane O'Brien, Jackie West, Marie Vagnone, Laura del Rio, Jane Sherill, Sharon Lee, and Rita Bennett are just some of her proteges who are now starring in professional wrestling. For those of you girls looking to be pro wrestlers, Mildred Burke prefers her girls to be quick and fast on their feet. "What I look for in women is youth, feminity, and size," she told this reporter. Those of you, male or female, wishing to learn to be a professional wrestler should write to her c/o P.O. Box 783, Reseda, California 91335.

For two decades, Mildred Burke was the Women's World Wrestling Champion. Although retired, she is still a crusader, and her influence on the sport as a promoter and trainer is still great. The sport of wrestling is a better one due to the influence of Mildred Burke. Mildred Burke owes much to professional wrestling, but the sport owes more to her.

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WEST COAST NEWS
By RON VALIM

The Sacramento Memorial Auditorium has been the scene recently of some top flight action.

Andre The Giant (7-5, 468 lbs) returned after a year's absence and teamed with Pat Patterson in the main event to take on a threesome composed of Mr. Fugi, and Invader #2. The match was a slam bang affair with Pat and Andre winning 2 of 3 falls.

In the other action, Don Muraco, once a good guy and now a villian upset former U.S. Champ Peter Maivia. Pedro Morales won over Invader #1, Bobby Jaggers pinned Raul Mata, and former junior heavyweight champ Pepe Lopez pinned The Alaskan.

▲**Two weeks later another card** saw a main event between Patterson and Muraco. The match was no disqualification. Muraco tried early to see if he could squeeze Pat Patterson's head off as he choked Pat for 5 straight minutes. Pat nearly blacked out but he broke out of it with a punch. Then with his favorite hold, "The Bombs Away," Pat took the first fall in 18:03. Muraco was unstopable in the second fall with a savage attack and a pin won in 3:47. Patterson complained that Muraco had pulled his trunk's to win and indeed the Hawaiian had! Pat wasted no time in winning the third fall by pinning Muraco in 7 seconds with a cardle. Pat got revenge as he pulled Muraco's trunks!

In the co-main event a six-man tag saw villians Fugi, Invader #2 and manager Gerhardt Kaiser take on the Spanish Armada composed of Morales, Mata and Lopez. Pedro pinned Kaiser at 17:25 to win for his side.

Bobby Jaggers continued his unbeaten streak with a win over Rick Ferraea and Tony Garea made his Sacramento debut with a win over the tough Alaskan.

▲**In San Jose at the Civic Auditorium** two top tag teams remained unbeaten. On consecutive cards Andre and Patterson and also Fugi and Jaggers won twice. On the first one Pat and Andre won over Muraco, Invader #2 and Kaiser. Fugi and Jaggers stopped Morales and Hurricane Hester. The opener saw Pepe Lopez beat The Alaskan.

One week later they were at it again. The French combo of Patterson and Andre again did in Muraco, Invader #2 and Kaiser. This team of Pat and Andre are unbeaten in 2 years of competition. Fugi and Jaggers also won, this time over Morales and Samoan Star Reno Tilfulli. The opener saw a rare scientific bout as Pepe Lopez beat Hester.

▲**A huge crowd of 14,787 fans poured into the San Francisco Cow Palace to witness one of Promoter Roy Shire's spectacular 18 Man Battle Royals.** Shire always excites the fans with top talent for this wild bout but even this one was more spectacular than anyone thought possible. The talent was incredible. U.S. Champ Pat Patterson who won the battle royal in 1975 was joined by Andre The Giant, Ray Stevens, former U.S. Champs Peter Maivia and Moon Dog Mayne, former tag champions The Masked Invaders to name a few. Others were Java Ruuk, Don Muraco, Bobby Jaggers, Japanese greats Mr. Saito, Mr. Fugi, former Oregon Champ Dutch Savage, Earl Maynard, Karl Von Brauner and three former world champions, Pedro Morales (W.W.W.F.), Dory Funk Jr. (N.W.A.) and Handsome Harley Race (N.W.A.).

The match lasted 33:12. The last 4 were Patterson, Stevens, Muraco and Fugi. Fugi took care of Pat with a low blow and pin. Ray Stevens dropkicked Muraco out. Ray split Fugi's head open but the wily Oriental won when he blinded the "Blonde Bomber" with salt and flipped him over the top ropes. Stevens had won two battle royals in San Francisco before but not this time. Fugi won $15,000 and a huge trophy.

While Fugi was the happiest man in the dressing room, at least 5 men were badly disappointed. Earl Maynard received a broken leg, Karl Von Brauner had 3 broken ribs, Harley Race had a cut that reaquired 26 stitches and of course there was Gerhardt Kaiser. The sneaky manager hit Andre with his cane during the battle royal. Andre brought Kaiser into the ring. He headbutted Kaiser and also gave him several big splashes. The most humiliated was Java Ruuk. Ruuk won a battle royal in Los Angeles but he was the first man out after 4 minutes when Patterson threw him out. Despite losing Patterson was the most impressive man in the battle royal. Pat threw out Ruuak and Funk Jr. He also helped to eliminate Race, Saito, Maynard, Invader #1 and Andre.

Only 3 other bouts were held but they were dandies. Dory Funk Jr., pinned Java Ruuk. Andre and Peter Maivia won a tough battle over Dutch and The Masked Invaders. The final bout saw Patterson and Stevens win over Muraco and Saito when Ray pinned Don.

▲**The next Cow Palace card** saw Fugi continue his winning ways by dethroning Pat Patterson as U.S. Champ. Mr. Saito distracted Patterson and this allowed Fugi to attack Pat from behind.

Also on that card Andre ended his stay in the Bay Area with a tag team win. He and Pedro Morales beat Don Muraco, Mr. Saito and Invaders #2. Invader #1 went to a draw with Pepe Lopez. Tony Garea won over the Alaskan and Bobby Jaggers beat Reno Tifulli.

▲**In Los Angeles** mysterious Arab Java Ruuk won the 20 man battle royal over Porkchop. Some of the combatants were John Tolos, Tony Rocco, Bob Orton, Andre, Patterson, Gordman and Goliath and Raul Mata. Young Chavo Gurrero is the Americas Champion. Black Gordman and Great Goliath are the Americas tag champs. Fans here would like to see either Fred Blassie or Victor Rivera return soon.

▲**Up in Oregon** the new Northwest tag team champs are Dutch Savage and Jimmy Snuka. They won over The Royal Kangaroos who held the title for a year. Popular Samoan Snuka is the Northwest Champion. Not too long ago he beat Bull Ramps to win the title. Other men in Oregon are Jessie Venture, Johnny Eagles, Manuel Cruz and Rick Hunter.

When writing letters that require an answer please send along stamped self addressed envelope.

DELUTH, MINNESOTA MAT NEWS
By BETTY SCHLEY

At the Duluth Arena in Duleth Minnesota, an All-Star Wrestling card was held with these results:

A grudge match between Larry "AXE" Hennig and Joe LeDuc against Jimmy and Johnny Valiant ended in all four wrestlers getting disqualified.

In other matches Pampero Firpo stopped Kim Duk, Bg Bad Bob Duncum defeated Cowboy Don Ulade and Jim Brunzell won over Khosrow "Ali" Vozire.

▲At the Duluth Arena, another grudge match highlighted the 8 p.m. All-Star Wrestling card. The match was the second main event and it really was a grudge match. It was between Larry 'AXE' Hennig and Jim Brunzell against Bobby Heenan and his partner Bobby Duncum. Larry Hennig was taking Greg Gagne's place because Greg was unable to wrestle due to a concussion, which he received at the hands of Bobby Duncum and Bobby Heenan in Dever. Well, Larry and Jim tried their best but they just didn't have enough to beat Duncum and Heenan.

In other matches Pampero Firpo battled with Nick Bockwinkel for the A.W.A. Championship title and belt. Firpo was a bit discussed with Nick Bockwinkel and his tatics, so he let things get out of hand and found he had gotten himself disqualified.

Big Joe LeDuc got the best of Kim Duk in their match. Khosrow Vaziri defeated newcomer Bob Backlund.

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SAN DIEGO MAT NEWS
By BILL FORDHAM

Recently in San Diego, an action packed card said!

1. Rock "Mr. Wonderful" riddle won over Mickey Doyle.
2. J. C. Dykes and Inferno #1 won over Lou Anthony and Raul Mata.
3. John Tolos won over the Zodiac in a no D.Q. match.
4. Texas tag team death match was won by Mando Lopez and Chavo Guerrero over Ernie Ladd and Hiroshima Joe.
5. America's tag team title match was held and only a submission fall wins! No time limit. Gordman and Goliath won over Inferno #2 and #3. That makes nine times the team of G and G. have had the titles.

▲On another card:

1. The Alaskan won over Mickey Doyle.
2. Rock Riddle lost to Chavo Guerrero. The match was for the Jules Strongbow Scientific Trophy.
3. A Texas death match was held leaving Raul Mata the winner over Inferno #2.
4. An elimination tag match was held with Black Gordman, Great Goliath, and Lou Anthony going against Inferno #1, Inferno #3, and J. C. Dykes. The first to be eliminated was Goliath. Then Gordman got mad at Anthony then left the ring. So that left Anthony against three, but then Anthony pinned Inferno #3 than J. C. Dykes. In the last minutes of the match, Inferno #1 pinned Anthony for the victory.
5. A tornado team match with all four men in the ring at once. The team of John Tolos and Mando Lopez won over the team of the Zodiac and Hiroshima Joe when T-O-L-O-S applied the cork screw.

▲Later.

1. Inferno's #1 and #2 wrestled to a draw over Mickey Doyle and Rock Riddle, but Riddle and Doyle were close to winning the match. They wanted five more minutes and they got it, but lost the match.
2. Girl midgets Little Dove and Darling Dagmar won over Little Lil and Marie Laveau.
3. Black Gordman and Great Goliath put up the tag team belts against the team of Chavo Guerrero and Salvador Lothario. Gordman and Lothario were both disqualified for battling outside the ropes.
4. A mask vs. boot match was held tonight with Mata's boot against Inferno #1's mask. Inferno #1 won the match and got the boot back for Inferno #2. But then J. C. Dykes made a terrible mistake. He was hitting mata with the boot, when Guerrero came in took the boot from Dykes and gave it back to mata. Raul then gave the boot to the Ref. who will take the loaded boot to the N.W.A. to get Dykes barred from wrestling.
5. The Zodiac met John Tolos in a match where if Tolos were to lose, he would have to leave San Diego for good and never come back. Another condition was that the Zodiac had to unmask before the match.

Zodiac refused to unmask, but Tolos took care of that by ripping it off in short order. He then proceeded to win the match. The Zodiac is Bob Orton known as the Big "O".

▲On a card which featured a battle royal, other results were:

1. Tony Rocco won over Mickey Doyle.
2. Raul Mata won over Rock Riddle.
3. Salvador Lothario won over Black Gordman.
4. Java Ruuk took care of El Bengal with no sweat.
5. Chavo Guerrero took on Great Goliath.
6. Andre the Giant won over Bob Orton and The Alaskan, in a handycap match.
7. John Tolos won over Inferno #1 in 45 seconds.
8. The winner of a 15 man battle royal was Adrew The Giant.

The first man eliminated was: 1. Bengali, 2. Sal Lothario, 3. Rock Riddle, 4. Bob Orton, 5. Tony Rocco, 6. Mickey Doyle, 7. Raul Mata, 8. Great Goliath, 9. Black Gordman, 10. John Tolos, 11. Chavo Guerrero, 12. Java Ruuk, 13. Inferno #1, 14. The Alaskan, Winner: Andre the Giant.

Andre the Giant split the choak with Chavo Guerrero.

▲Most recently: 1. Tony Rocco won over Roddy Pipper.

2. Mando Lopez won over Java Ruuk.
3. Raul Mata won over The Alaskan when the Alaskan threw Mata over the tope rope.
4. Andre the Giant, John Tolos and Chavo Guerrero won a six man tag team match over Inferno #1, J. C. Dykes and The Alaskan.
5. Dave (Pork Chop) Cash won over Black Gordman when Gordman was D.Q. for eye gouging.

READ THE RING

EUROPE'S CHAMPION, ARIS PETROPOULOS

(Continued from page 43)

Spiros Arion as partner in Kuwait. Petropoulos rates this tag match as one of his most important victories.

His major professional success occured in 1972 in Athens. In a tournament for a version of the European heavyweight championship in which six wrestlers participated, Petropoulos emerged the winner in the final, and obtained the right to wear the title belt which, at the time of the writing of this article, is still in his possession.

The final was against Superman of the United States whom he beat by a K.O. in the third round of a match in which Petropoulos showed extreme superiority. He never allowed Superman to settle down. From the moment the first bell rang, Petropoulos was all over his opponent.

Aris Petropoulos states that lifting holds are his specialties and lists the flying head scissors, front crotch lift & slam and the flying spin as his top favorites. He can also apply the dreaded back breaker quite forcibly.

As with any professional wrestler, he has had his share of injuries, the worse of which was a broken leg during a fight against a Lebanese wrestler in Athens which kept him in the hospital for no less than five months. Naturally, keeping away from wrestling for such a long period had to effect his performance in the ring.

His present tour of Mediterranean countries is in preparation for a try at a version of the world championship. No doubt Aris Petropoulos would be a fitting holder of a world title belt.

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MAT NEWS FROM MIAMI BEACH
By FRED C. OAKLEY

Jack Brisco beat Larry "The Axe" Hennig in a title match and in another championship bout Hiro Matsuda whipped Omer Negro in defense of his World Junio Heavyweight Crown.

Sam Bass left the area after his superstars were unamsked in two separate bouts. They were Karl von Steiger and Rip Hawk.

The "Destroyer" who holds the Southern Title after pinning Jerry Brisco is none other than Killer Kowalski.

King Curtis posted a victory over Joe LeDuk and in his feud with Rocky Johnson, he was one win and one loss. He also teamed with Bob Roop to whip Johnson and Dusty Rhodes.

Joyce Grable and Early Dawn beat Toni Rose and Donna Christiantello in a version of a Women's World Championship match.

Terry Funk and Cyclone Negro locked horns in a classic duel with Negro scoring a clean cut victory. It was a rough but fairly clean bout with Funk in a lot of trouble as the vicious headlocks of Negro took their toll and Funk was finally counted out after a back suplex.

Other wrestlers appearing here were Eddie Graham, Mike Graham, Bob Roop, Don Greene, Prof. Tanaka, Billy Robinson, Tom Jones, Mike George, Roger Kirby, Mr. Eito, Roosevelt Jones, Ervin Smith, Randy Poffo, Abe Jacobs and Bill Dromo.

▲On another card wrestling history was made here as Jack Brisco climbed through the ropes to meet a substitute; Terry Funk taking the place of his brother Dory who couldn't make it. Twenty-six times before this, Brisco left this same ring with the coveted NWA World Heavyweight Championship belt, but this time Terry Funk took it away from him. It was a hard fight, a rough and bitter contest with no quarter given or asked by either man. Several times it seemed to be over but Brisco or Funk would manage a miraculous escape.

The end came in exactly 28 minutes as Brisco went for his famous figure-four but in so doing, left himself open for a second and that was all Funk needed. With powerful speed he rolled Brisco with an inside cradle and the Referee slowly counted out three. For a few seconds there was a complete dead silence as the sellout crowd could not believe their eyes. Funk was dancing with joy and in his exuberance he accidently hit the referee in the nose with his arm and blood began to flow. Few noticed this though, it finally began to dawn on them that they were looking at the new wrestling champion of the world.

The very next week Terry Funk was back to fill one of the ex-champion's commitments and he bested the ever tough cyclone Negro in a title bout.

Billy Robinson who holds the Southern Championship whipped Bob Roop to retain his belt, but Roop gave him a real fight and Robinson had his hands full until a back breaker took the fight out of Roop.

Hiro Matsuda also laid his World Jr. Heavyweight Championship on the line, and in a bout filled with judo and karate chops, beat Kim Duc.

In other title matches here King Curtis, (Florida Champion), turned back Big Bill Dromo. Rip Hawk and Roger Kirby kept their tag team belts by getting Byrocky Johnson and Thunderbolt Patterson, and Mike Graham pinned Karl von Steiger to hold on to the U.S. Jr. Championship.

Florida Wrestling Titles: Florida Women's Champion. . . .Bonnie Watson. Southern Heavyweight Champion. . .Killer Kowalski alias the Masked Destroyer. Florida tag team champions. . . .Cyclone Negro and Omer Negro. Florida Heavyweight Champion. . . title vacant. (Tournament will be held in Jacksonville to determine the champion) The titles listed below are held by wrestlers who live in and work out of Florida. U. S. Jr. Heavyweight Champion. . .Mike Graham, Jr. World Heavyweight Champion. . .Hiro Matsuda, World Champion. . . .Dory Funk.

AWA NEWS
By HELEN MARTIN

Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens lost their tag team title to the Crusher and Bruiser. Verne Gagne lost his title of world heavyweight champion to Nick Bockwinkel. . . .New to the area is Bobby Duncan, managed by Bobby Heenan.

Pampiro Firpo is back after a five year ban was lifted by the AWA. Don Wade is also in the area. . .Red Bastien has been wrestling in St. Louis but has made a few appearances in the AWA. The Valient Brothers, Jimmy and Johnny, are here and winning all their matches.

RESULTS:

Davenport, Iowa: Jim Brunzell over George Gadasky, Kim Duk over Joe LeDuc by disq., Greg Gagne over Nick Bockwinkel in a 10 minute match. Bockwinkel had to pin Greg in ten minutes or forfeit the match. The Valient Brothers won over Billy Robinson and Larry Hennig. Verne Gagne defeated Baron von Raschke by disq. in a title match.

Rockford, Ill.: Kim Duk won over Kosrow Vaziri, The Valient Brothers over Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne with Joe LeDuc over Bobby Heenan. Nick Bockwinkel and Baron von Raschke defeated Larry Hennig and Billy Robinson.

Chicago, Ill.: Art Thomas over Bill White, Pompiro Firpo beat Kim Duk. Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell drew with the Valients and Oz Baker beat Moose Cholak. Baron von Raschke won over Billy Robinson by disqualification. Bruiser and Crusher beat the Leggionnaires.

Pekin, Ill.: Greg Gagne beat Kim Duk by disqualifications. Jim Brunzell and Johnny Valient drew and Jimmy Valient won over Joe LeDuc. Nick Bockwinkel and Baron von Raschke beat Billy Robinson and Pampiro Firpo.

Davenport, Iowa: Kosrow Vaziri and Private Le Buff drew, Kim Duk and Buddy Wolfe won over Jim Brunzell and Bull Bullinski. Pampiro Firpo beat Rene Goulet, Jim and John Valient won over Billy Robinson and Joe LeDuc.

St. Cloud, Minn.: Kim Duk beat Kosrow Vaziri, Baron von Raschke won over Joe LeDuc and Pampiro Firpo and Bill Robinson won over The Valients by a disqualification.

Winnipeg, Canada: Kim Duk defeated Joe Corona while Joe LeDuc won over Ivan Crankovic. Nick Bockwinkel and Pampiro Firpo went to a no contest. Kim Duk wrestled again and drew with Joe LeDuc, The Valients beat Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne. Baron von Raschke beat Gene Kiniski.

▲**Denver, Colorado:** Jim Brunzell drew with Kim Duk and Pampiro Firpo beat Buddy Wolfe. Billy Robinson beat Baron von Raschke in a no disqualification match and The Valients beat Joe LeDuc and Larry Hennig.

▲**St. Paul, Minnesota:** Jim Brunzell beat Boris Breznikoff while Baron von Raschke and Pampiro Firpo won both counted out in their match. Kosrow Vaziri beat George Gadasky, Greg Gagne and Verne Gagne lost to Nick Bockwinkel and Bobby Heenan.

▲**Chicago, Ill.:** Kim Duk and Kosrow Vaziri drew, Pampiro Firpo beat Raul Guzzman, Ox Baker over Jim Brunzell. Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens won over Dr. X and Dusty Rhodes.

▲**Moline, Ill.:** Greg Gagne won over Buddy Wolfe, Pampiro Firpo beat Kim Duk and Baron von Raschke won over Jim Brunzell. Valients won over Billy Robinson and Joe LeDuc and The Crusher beat Nick Bockwinkel by a disqualification.

▲**Pekin, Ill.:** Joe LeDuc won over Buddy Wolfe, Valients beat Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne. Nick Bockwinkel won over Pampiro Firpo by a disqualification and Baron von Raschke won over Billy Robinson by a disqualification.

▲**Moline, Ill.:** Chris Taylor over Don Wade. Johnny Valinet over Jim Brunzell and Joe LeDuc over Jimmy Valient by disqualification. Nick Bockwinkel and Baron von Raschke and Chris Taylor and Pampiro Firpo went to a no contest ending.

▲**Minneapolis, Minn.:** Kosrow Vaziri won over George Gadaski, Ramona Isabelle beat Marva Scott, Red Bastien and Boris Breznikoff drew. Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens won over Joe LeDuc and Larry Henning while Pampiro Firpo and Baron Von Raschke went to a no contest decision.

▲**Moline, Ill.:** Kim Duk beat Don Wade. Baron von Raschke and Joe LeDuc drew and Nick Bockwinkel won over Pampiro Firpo. Valients defeated Jim Brunzell and Chris Taylor.

▲**St. Paul, Minn.:** Joe LeDuc won over Don Wade, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell defeated Bobby Duncum and Buddy Wolfe. Billy Robinson beat Kim Duk by a disqualification. Pampiro Firpo and Baron von Raschke ended in no contest. Nick Bockwinkel won over Verne Gagne for the championship.

▲**Peoria, Ill.:** Don Wade and Kosrow Vaziri drew and Sonny Boy Hayes and Little Bo Bo won over Billy The Kid and Little Tokyo. Baron von Raschke won over Pampiro Firpo by a disqualification. The Valients won over Chris Taylor and Billy Robinson.

▲**Moline, Ill.:** Bobby Duncum won over Don Wade and Sonny Boy Hayes and Little Bo Bo won over Billy The Kid and Little Tokyo. Jimmy Valient beat Chris Taylor by a disqualification and The Crusher and Pampiro Firpo over Nick Bockwinkel and Baron von Raschke.

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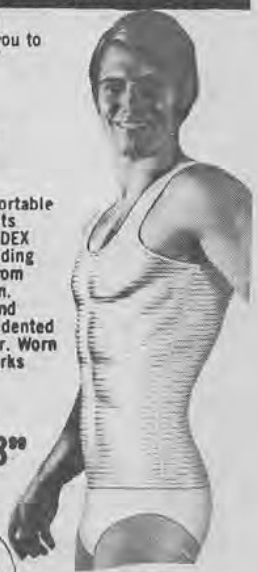

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(Continued from page 17)

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"I've already defeated all of the best in Florida, Georgia, Detroit, and Toronto, and soon I'll be heading for Japan to take on the top men there. While in the Orient I hope to brush up once again on all of the various Martial Arts, so that I'll be in the best condition when I return back here to the states to resume my quest for the world title.

"The biggest joy in my life is gonna come when I say 'good night' to Terry Funk and walk away with the N.W.A. World Heavyweight Title. This is my goal and every opponent I put to sleep between now and then takes me a step closer to realizing this life long ambition."

McDANIEL WINS STRAP MATCH OVER GRAHAM

(Continued from page 27)

You could see from Graham's face that he was determined to finish Wahoo off for good. Graham then began to drag McDaniel around the ring, but after dragging the Indian around once, Wahoo somehow managed to hold on to the bottom rope. With this, Superstar went sliding clear out of the ring. Graham was furious and he pulled Wahoo out of the ring after him.

Both wrestlers began to fight like crazy around the outside of the ring. Graham and McDaniel took turns banging each others' heads into the metal turnpost, and as they did blood began to spurt in all directions. Wahoo, spotting the time keeper's chair, quickly picked it up and slammed it squarely over Graham's head. The Superstar was out! Wahoo, with the aid of Paul Jones, quickly tossed Graham back into the ring. Now the Indian began to drag Graham around the ring! You could see the strain on McDaniel's face, but the Indian was determined to do in the Superstar.

After dragging Graham around the ring once, Steve Strong made an attempt to interfere once again, but Paul Jones intervened and diverted Strong's attention. Wahoo was weakening fast, but the Indian held out and with his last ounce of strength managed to drag the Superstar around the ring for a second time. As soon as he did the Richmond Coliseum exploded into mass hysteria.

With his victory Wahoo McDaniel had finally revenged his loss to the Superstar and once again re-claimed the top spot in the Virginia-Carolina Area.

ON AND AROUND THE MAT WORLD

(Continued from page 31)

editor's number one helper. Always sends in news, results and comments. . .Bill Watts is currently a version of the North American Heavyweight Champion. . .Bob Orton, Sr. recently unmasked in California and turned out to be the Zodiac. Bob Sr. wrestled under that name some six or seven years ago. . .Chavo Guerrero doing well defending his Americas championship. Chavo is the son of former light heavyweight champion of the world, Gory. . .Dino Bravo and Bill Dromo are teaming in Florida rings.

If you collect programs then you would be interested in the program from Huntsville, Ala. Slam-O-Gram is the name of the program and sells for 25¢ plus a stamped self-addressed envelope. One of the best around always filled with new photos and stories. Scott Teal is the editor and his address is PO Box 253, Trevecca College, Nashville, Tn. 37210. . .New wrestler on the East Coast is Billy White Wolf. Making a good showing and if Jay Strongbow comes back East they would make an interesting tag team. . .Over in Germany the tournaments are just getting started and some stars taking part are Horst Hoffman, The UFO, Cuban Assassin, Billy Two Rivers, Ricky Starr and others. . .Rumor has it that The Destroyer will be on another world wide wrestling tour. . .Pampero Firpo a favorite of fans in AWA land. . .Watch the team of Billy Superstar Graham and Ivan Koloff make it right to the top of the WWWF tag team ladder. . .King Curtis has a manager now in the form of Buddy Colt in Florida. . .Reggie Parks in Memphis and doing well.

ACTION IN WESTERN CANADA
By ROSS HART

CALGARY STAMPEDE CITY ACTION — Ed Morrow and Jerry Morrow successfully retained their tag team title in the main event by defeating Towering Inferno and Butcher Bronnigan two out of three falls.

In the semi final Cowboy Frankie Laine scored over Don Gagne in a nontitle bout.

In other tag team action Gil Hayes and Mr. Hito won over Michel Mortel and Bill Cody.

Keith Hort drew with Alo Leloni in twenty minutes, El Vikingo of San Solvadore pinned John Foster and in the opener Bob Boucher beat Don Hipkiss.

▲EDMONTON KLONDIKE CITY ACTION — Ed Morrow and Jerry Morrow successfully retained their tag team title in the main event as they won over Butcher Brannigan and Don Gagne two out of three falls.

Cowboy Frankie Laine defeated the Towering Inferno in a bout for the North American title in the semi final.

Gil Hayes and Mr. Hito top tag challengers defeated Michel Mortel and Bill Cody in another tag team match.

El Vikingo was too rough for Alo Leloni, Bob Boucher lost to John Foster and Don Hipkiss went to a draw with Guy Lambert in the opener.

▲CALGARY STAMPEDE CITY ACTION — In the main event Towering Inferno and Don Gagne were unable to wrest the tag team title away from the Morrow Brothers who won the match two out of three falls.

In a battle between two giants 300 pound John Quinn met Quebec's Gilles "The Fish" Poisson with the winner promised a shot at North American champion Cowboy Frankie Laine at a future date. As it turned out "The Fish" scored the unpopular win, two out of three falls with knee drops from the top rope to the throat.

Cowboy Frankie Laine scored a disqualification win over Butcher Bronnigan in a North American title bout.

Mr. Hito and Gil Hayes won their tag team match from Michel Mortel and Alo Leloni. In the opening match El Vikingo drew with Bill Cody.

▲EDMONTON KLONDIKE CITY ACTION — In the maine event for the tag team title, The Morrow Brothers met arch rivals Mr. Hito and Gil Hayes. During the course of the match the villains threw Ed Morrow into referee Don Tingley knocking both out. Jerry Morrow was then floored and pinned by Hito as the referee had risen. The new champions were proudly displaying their new belts until promoter Stu Hart who watched the proceedings reversed the decision giving the win to the Morrows.

In the semi final Grand Prix heavyweight champion Gilles "The Fish" Poisson made it two wins by defeating the mighty John Quinn again two falls out of three.

Butcher Bronnigan was disqualified against Frankie Laine.

In tag team action Bill Cody and Michel Martel defeated the masked Towering Inferno and Don Gagne. Vikingo took a win from Bob Boucher in the opener.

▲CALGARY STAMPEDE MAT ACTION — In the main event for the tag team title Mr. Hito and Gil Hayes once more tried to capture the International tag team title from Ed Morrow and Jerry Morrow.

After trading falls with the challengers, the Morrows were declared the winners of the third fall due to outside interference from the Inferno who came in to assist Hito and Hayes.

Promoter Stu Hart, who came in to restore peace and order, found himself on the receiving end from an attack from all three villains until rescued by the Morrow brothers. The villains issued the promoter and Morrows a challenge to meet in a triple tag team match which set the stage for the following week.

In other bouts, Gilles "The Fish" Poisson made good his boast that he could capture the North American title by defeating Cowboy Frankie Laine. After the match was all even in the exciting bout, Laine's bulldog headlock backfired. With a kneedrop from the top rope, Poisson won the match and became the new champion, adding the North American title to his Grand Prix title, newcomer from Hawaii, Ripper Collins easily defeated Bob Boucher, newcomer from Germany Karl Shatz smothered Bill Cody, Don Gagne and Towering Inferno lost to Michel Martel and El Vikingo, and Irish Paddy Ryan made a winning debut over Butcher Brannigan.

▲EDMONTON KLONDIKE CITY ACTION — Cowboy Frankie Laine failed in his bid to regain the North American title from Gilles Poisson. "The Fish" was disqualified for striking the referee but kept his title due to the technacality.

Once again Mr. Hito and Gil Hayes tangled with the Morrow brothers in an attempt to regain the International tag team title. At the end they were once again disqualified when Hito used a length of chain to floor Jerry Morrow.

Ripper Collins, making his first appearance in Edmonton, had a sure win and then blew it as he lost by disqualification to Bill Cody for unnecessary roughness.

Newcomer Paddy Ryan won over Don Gagne, Karl Shotz pulverized Bob Boucher, and the second tag team match was won by The Inferno and Butcher Brannigan over Michel Martel and El Vikingo.

▲CALGARY STAMPEDE CITY ACTION — The main event feature was a triple tag team match with veteran promoter Stu Hart a great wrestler at one time, coming out of retirement join forces with the Morrow brothers to meet the threesome of Gil Hayes, Mr. Hito, and Towering Inferno. Hart proved he can still handle himself against the best by capturing the fall from the Inferno.

Gilles "The Fish" Poisson and Cowboy Frankie Laine met in a real born raiser with Frankie trying to recapture the title. Laine scored the first fall but in the second fall both opponents were disqualified when things got out of control. Laine was the official winner but did not receive the title because the match did not go all scheduled three falls.

Karl Shotz defeated Vikingo. Ripper Collins drew with Paddy Ryan in twenty minutes, and Bill Cody and Michel Martel won the opening tag team match from Butcher Brannigan and Don Gagne.

▲EDMONTON KLONDIKE CITY ACTION — Cowboy Frankie Laine recaptured the North American title by defeating Gilles Poisson with a rollup pin in the main event, much to the delight of the fans.

The Morrow brothers and Stu Hart won the triple tag team match over Towering Inferno, Gil Hayes and Mr. Hito.

Karl Shotz beat Vikingo. Ripper Collins was disqualified against Paddy Ryan. Don Gagne and Butcher Brannigan lost to Bill Cody and Michel Martel in the tag team match.

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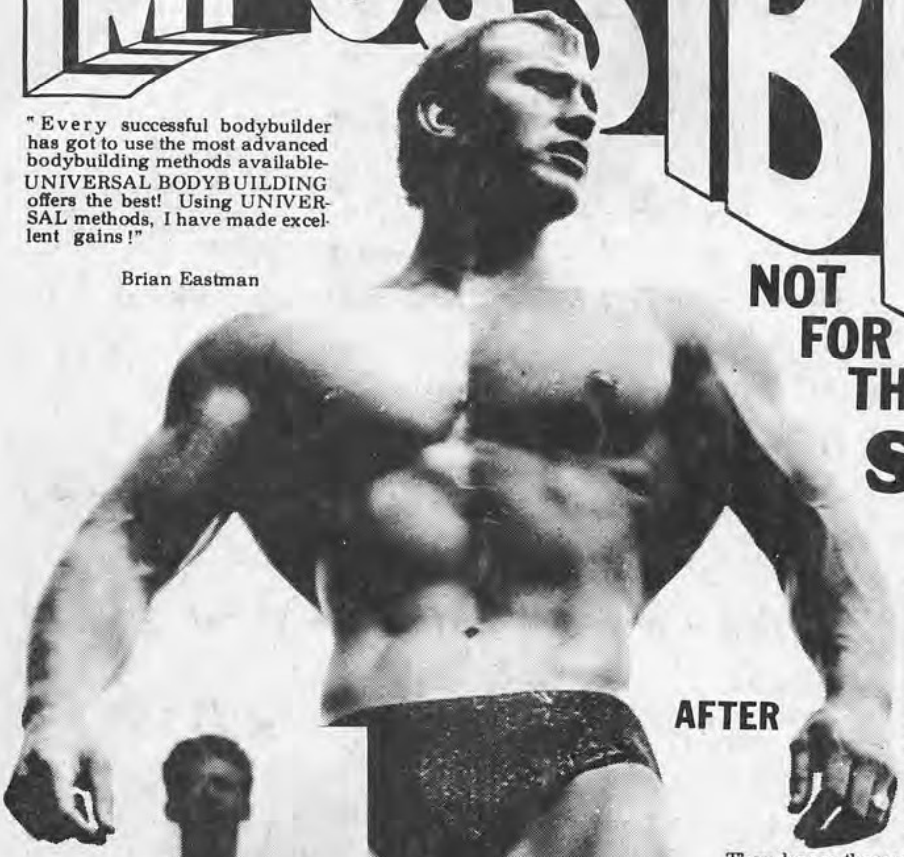

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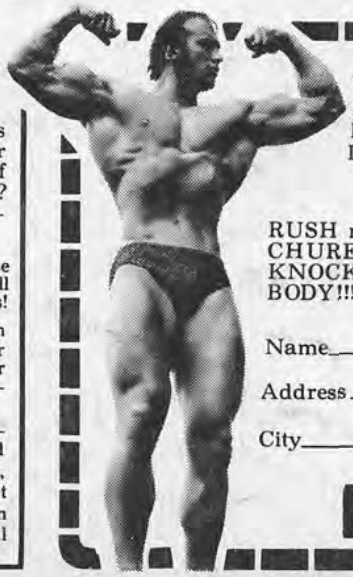
- ☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
- ☐ **LEGS** — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!



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